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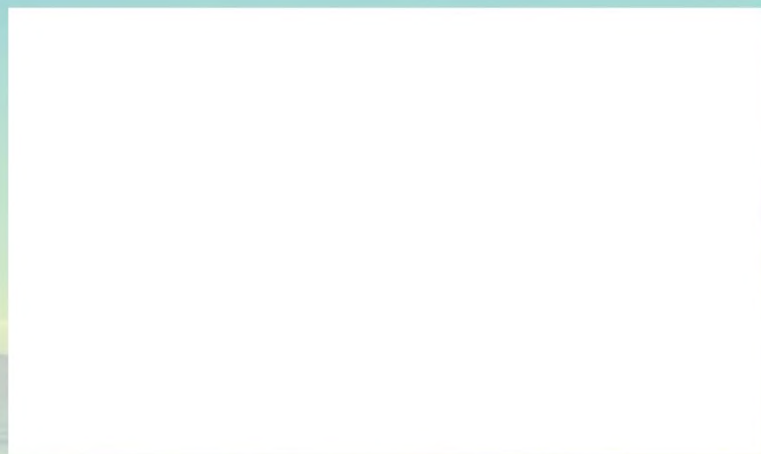


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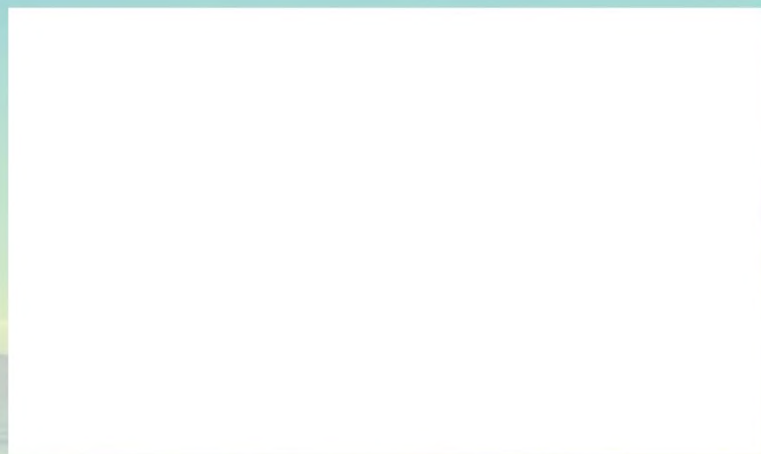
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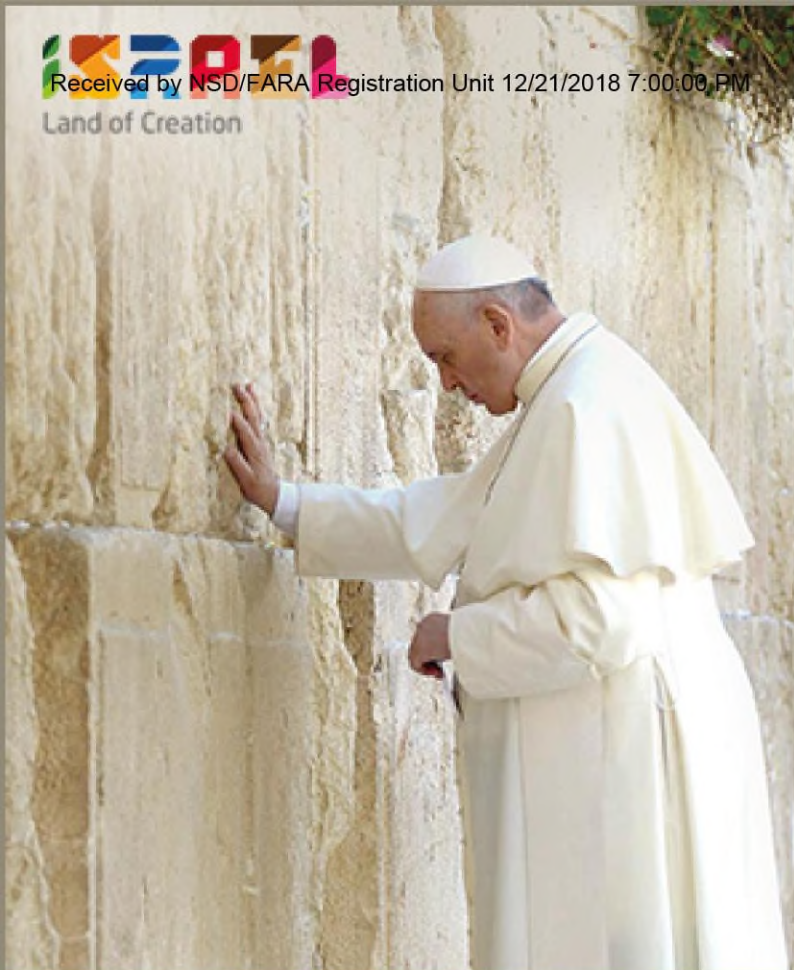
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A photograph of Pope Francis, dressed in white, touching a large, textured stone wall. He is looking down at his hand as it rests on the stone. The wall is made of large, light-colored stone blocks.

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The Israel experience: **safer** than you might think

A church leader taking members to Israel will -- appropriately -- prioritize **safety**.

To this end, there are some common misconceptions regarding travel to Israel. And no one knows these better than Denise Bossert, Public Relations Director, Midwest Region, for Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT).

A former writer, syndicated columnist -- and self-confessed "nervous traveler" -- Bossert now leads faith-based tour groups to Israel: her *favorite destination on earth*.

In this latest chapter of the [Faith-Based Travel: Israel](#) eBook, Bossert takes an in-depth look at the **fears** -- and the **facts** -- surrounding travel to Israel, including:

- Air travel safety
- Security screening: what to expect
- The surprisingly **low** crime rates throughout the country

PLUS! Q&A with Dr. Gary Frazier -- This former pastor and founder of Dallas-based Discovery Missions International has traveled to Israel 187 times! And, he and his team have taken more than 1,800 pastors, and thousands of believers, to the Land of the Bible.

Frazier, too, eases the most common Israel travel-related fears -- and shines a light on their realities.

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The Israel Experience: Closer Than You Think

Posted by admin

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BLOGS, Faith-Based Travel: Israel, FEATURE STORIES, Latest News, LEADERSHIP, MISSIONS & TRAVEL, Outreach, Pilgrimages

Tuesday, June 28th, 2016

Edit This Post

□

For people of faith, the appeal of a trip to Israel is timeless. To walk where Jesus walked, and to experience the Land of the Bible, is an experience like no other.

39
Like

It is also an unparalleled fellowship opportunity — a journey that can begin, for a church-based travel group, well in advance of the trip.

Yet, even with all Israel has to offer for faith-based travelers, it might surprise you to know that **2014 was the best year for North American travel to Israel**, especially among Catholics and Evangelicals.

There are other “surprises” you should know, as well.

Download the *Faith-Based Travel: Israel eBook* to learn:

- **Why, as a pastor, this probably won't be your last trip to Israel.** For church leaders, going to Israel is just a once-in-a-lifetime experience; there's value in visiting again and again. (And yes, that's totally doable.)
- **How simple the planning process can be.** With a pastor's busy schedule, it's good to know that planning a solo, family or group trip to Israel can be very easy and hands-off. Here's how.
- **The surprises in store!** Be prepared for your *experience* to exceed your *expectations*.
- **7 things you don't already know about Israel (but might surprise you).** This includes how — and how fast! — you and your church members can get there; facts about the Christian and Muslim population in Israel; and a surprising approach to environmental stewardship.
- **How much you can experience in how little time.** Even individuals with full-time jobs can make this trip work, without sacrificing any part of the experience.



Download the eBook now! And, keep an eye out for future chapters on tried-and-true planning strategies, as well as recommended sites and experiences for church-based travelers.

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Faith-Based Travel: Israel--a pastor's planning guide -- new eBook Available

To RaeAnn Slaybaugh

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The Israel Experience: Closer Than You Think

There's no question that Israel is an unparalleled destination for people of faith -- especially pastors, their families, and their church members.

What you might *not* realize is that **Israel has never been a more popular destination** than it is right now. Or, **how simple it can be** to plan a trip there. Or, **how much can be seen and experienced** in relatively little time.

Download the [Faith-Based Travel: Israel](#) eBook to learn:

- Why, as a pastor, this probably won't be your *last* trip to Israel
- How simple the planning process can be
- 7 things you don't already know about Israel (but might surprise you!)
- How much you can experience in how little time.

[Download](#) the eBook now! And, keep an eye out for future chapters on *tried-and-true planning strategies*, as well as *recommended sites and experiences for church-based travelers*.



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New eBook: " FAITH-BASED TRAVEL: ISRAEL"

****The Israel Experience: Closer Than You Think****

There's no question that Israel is an unparalleled destination for people of faith -- especially pastors, their families, and their church members....

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The Israel Experience: Closer Than You Think | Church Executive

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3 The Israel Experience: **Closer Than You Think**

For people of faith, the appeal of a trip to Israel is timeless. It's also an unparalleled fellowship opportunity -- a journey that can begin, for a church-based travel group, well in advance of the trip.

Find out how simple the planning process can be; 7 things you don't already know about Israel (but might surprise you!); and how much you can experience ... in how little time.

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Church Executive @ChurchExecutive · Jul 7

New eBook: "Faith-Based Travel: Israel"--
The experience is closer than you think
#Israel bit.ly/1AAhrY9

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What you might *not* realize is that Israel has never been a more popular destination than it is right now. Or, how simple it can be to plan a trip there. Or, how much can be seen and experienced in relatively little time.

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If you want to ensure your Israel trip is as transformative as it can be (and so often is), it pays to plan well.

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IN GOOD FAITH — AND GOOD COMPANY

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Travel to Israel by faith-based groups is very much on the rise. We'll tell (and show!) you why.

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THE ISRAEL EXPERIENCE:

closer than you think

For pastors and church groups, Israel is where the Bible – and fellowship – truly come alive. In these respects, its appeal is long-held and widely known.

What you might *not* realize is that Israel has never been a more popular destination than it is right now. Or, how simple it can be to plan a trip there. Or, how much can be seen and experienced in relatively little time. ➤

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For people of faith, the allure of a trip to Israel is timeless. To walk where Jesus walked, and to experience the Land of the Bible, is a monumental experience.

It is also an unparalleled fellowship opportunity — a journey that can begin well in advance of the trip with lessons focused on the biblical importance of going to Israel. Thus, making the bible come to life.

These once-in-a-lifetime aspects are resonating in a big way with church-based travelers: Data shows that 2014 was the best year to date for North American travel to Israel — especially among Catholics and Evangelicals.

Here's why.

For pastors, a trip to Israel isn't just a once-in-a-lifetime experience — there's value in going again and again.

Travelers to Israel often fall in love with the country. Many times, this affinity begins when a pastor travels to Israel alone, or with family.

The admiration is contagious, it seems, as the same pastors frequently return every year or two with different groups of church members. Often, the size of the group traveling increases with every trip to Israel a pastor orchestrates.

The planning process is much simpler than you might think.

Booking through a tour operator that is very familiar with Israel, versus using a travel site such as Expedia or Orbitz, is highly recommended. To this end, an **extensive list of tour operators and travel agencies** is available online.

Most tour operators and travel agencies do everything for the pastor and the church group, so they have a clear schedule. Typically, the trip is organized into a daily itinerary, tailored by the pastor according to his church's needs. When planning is approached this way, the entire process is surprisingly simple.

The first step is simply reaching out to one of these providers.

The experience probably won't be what you expect. In many ways, it will be more.

Many times, the Israel experience is more emotional than anticipated — even for people of faith. This reaction is particularly palpable as travelers share their experiences with loved ones and church members back home via **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram** and **YouTube**. Through photos, videos and more, their spiritual interactions with biblical sites come alive, in real time, keeping everyone engaged in this highly unique experience.

Additionally, the atmosphere in Israel might surprise many pastors and church groups. While seeing and experiencing holy places depicted in the Bible, the journey is framed in the context of a very advanced and modern country. In fact, Israel is home to more cellphones and laptops per capita than any other country in the world. (For more surprising facts, see the sidebar, right.)

You can experience a lot in a reasonable amount of time.

To get the full Israel experience, many groups opt for a seven-to-10-day trip. Not only does this timeframe work well for many travelers' work schedules, Israel is a small country. This means travelers can traverse go from north to south — from snow to desert — in several hours.

An experience-rich **seven-day sample itinerary** is available online, beginning in Jaffa; continuing to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Dead Sea many points beyond; and concluding with a view of ancient Jerusalem as seen from the top of Mount of Olives, time spent at the Garden of Gethsemane, and a trip to the Garden Tomb.

Another **seven-day itinerary** lets cycling enthusiasts explore well-known sites of the Galilee, from Mount Carmel to the sea of Galilee; from First Kings to the Gospel of John; from Elijah and Deborah to Jesus of Nazareth.

Yet, while pastors and church groups can experience quite a bit in this amount of time, return trips to Israel afford the opportunity for the same travelers to see more and different sites. [CE](#)

For more details — including pastor-focused planning tips, destination videos and photos, as well as travel tips, an events calendar, and tourist information and packages — visit the **Israel: Land of Creation website**.

7 things pastors probably don't know about Israel

If you've considered a trip to Israel — for yourself, your family or with a group of church members — you might know that getting around there is pretty simple. Super highways, an excellent rail network, and domestic flights connecting the center of the country with Eilat in the south, and the Galilee in the north, all make it so.

You might also know cruise ships make hundreds of calls a year at Haifa and Ashdod on the Mediterranean, and that more than 75 international airlines fly to Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV), located 10 miles from downtown Tel Aviv and 25 miles from the heart of Jerusalem.

But, we bet you *didn't* know...

1) There are lots of options for getting there.

As many as 10 nonstop flights a day go from North America to Israel, not only aboard Israel's national airline (EL AL), but also on Air Canada, Delta, United and US Air.

2) It's a shorter flight than you might think.

From the U.S. East Coast to Tel Aviv, the flight takes 10 hours. That's significantly faster than traveling from the U.S. East Coast to Hawaii.

3) There are 8.3 million Israelis.

Even though Israel is "the Jewish State," 25% of Israelis are Christian and Muslim.

4) Connectivity is key.

In Israel, there are more cellphones, bookstores, laptops and museums per capita than in any country on earth.

5) Israel is considered "Silicon Valley East."

It's the world's second-largest creator of IT software and systems.

6) The worldwide "green" revolution began in Israel a century ago.

More trees per acre have been planted in Israel since 1900 than in any other country on the planet. Additionally, Israelis have been using solar power for heating water for 60 years, and water-saving drip irrigation was *invented* in Israel.

7) The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth.

Because the sun's rays have an extra 1,200 feet to travel before they reach human skin, you'll tan — but you won't burn.

— Reporting by RaeAnn Slaybaugh

Israel: the planning process

10 tried-and-true tips for faith-based travelers

If you want to ensure your Israel trip is as transformative as it can be (and so often is), it pays to plan well. To that end, keep these 10 travel tips in mind, as gathered from many faith-based travelers before you.

1) Delegate! It might not make sense for a busy pastor to take the lead in planning and organizing the trip. Instead, the pastor should consider appointing a lay leader to navigate the logistics; then, he can come alongside that individual and encourage church members to be part of the experience — to walk where Jesus walked. (As you might imagine, it isn't a "tough sell.")

In this respect, often the best approach a pastor can take is to confidently inform the congregation he's going to Israel. If he commits to the trip, others will follow.

2) Choose a date for the trip. As you settle on a tour length, be sure to allow three days for travel due to time zone changes. Many faith-based travelers have found that a 10- to 12-days tour is just right; this allows for seven to nine days in Israel itself.

3) Consider the cost and choose a tour operator. Many faith-based travelers are surprised at how affordable the trip can be. Even so, with good stewardship an ever-present priority for pastors and people of faith alike, it's most economical to book through a tour operator who can arrange all the details in advance — and often for a much more reasonable price than "going it alone."

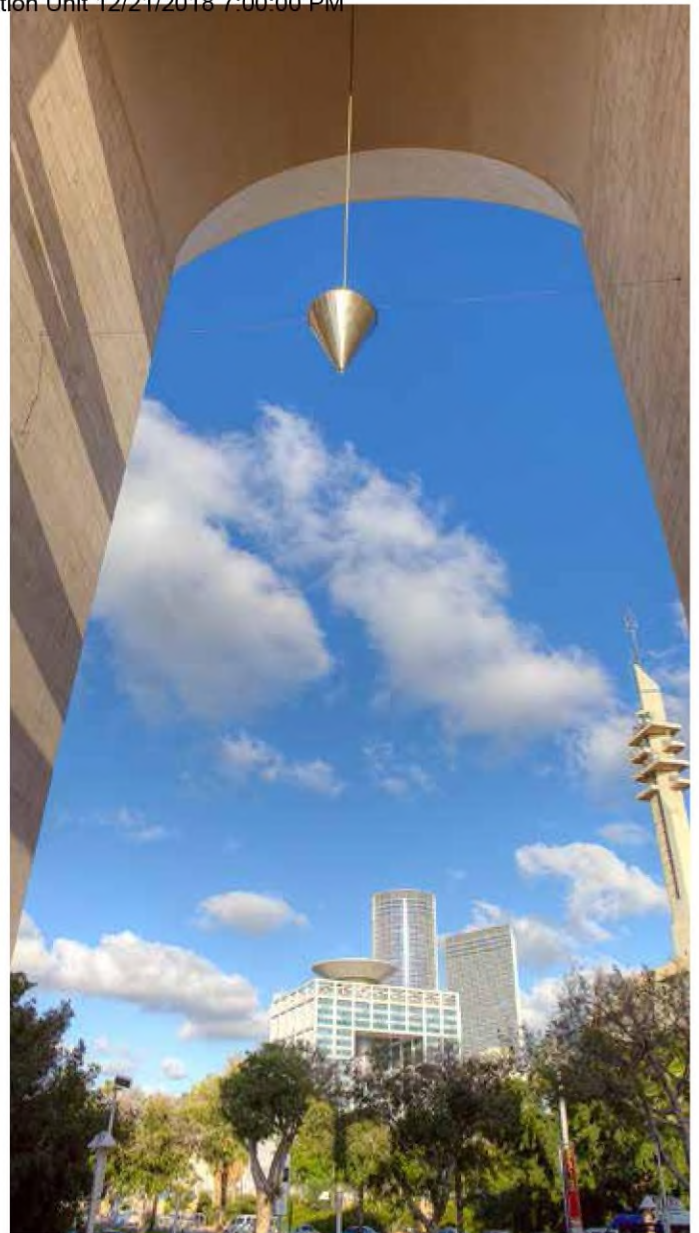
From transportation (usually buses for church groups) to meals, an inclusive approach to planning the trip has proven cost-efficient for scores of church-based travelers. **A comprehensive list of tour operators** is available online.

Contact two or three tour operators to discuss and build a basic itinerary. The one you feel most comfortable working with is usually the right choice.

Also enlist the tour operator's help in preparing promotional materials for the trip. Readymade options might be available.

As you vet the different tour operators, it's a good idea to have some destinations in mind. To get a great idea of what's available, visit

www.land-of-the-bible.com and www.holyland-pilgrimage.org





4) Keep fellow travelers involved in the process. It's a good idea to conduct an informational meeting to answer church members' questions about the trip. Also, be ready to register participants at this meeting. If a representative from the tour operator can be on hand to help with both, that's even better—just ask!

Once people are committed to the trip, be sure to communicate with them regularly about progress and plans. Keep in mind that these communications should convey a sense of excitement, not just deliver the practical information they'll need. Even before you go "wheels up," an Israel trip represents an amazing opportunity for fellowship.

5) Consider the weather — and pack accordingly. Seasons overlap a bit, weather-wise, in Israel. Winters can be rainy, and even snowy (particularly in Jerusalem), but the weather is nice and temperate through about December.

Average temperatures in the summer (June through early September) are in the 80's and 90's. Be prepared for some heat in Masada and Eilat: Temperatures often exceed 110 degrees in the summer!

From late September to November, and from late March to May — referred to as "the shoulders" — daytime temperatures usually hover around 75 degrees in most of the country.

Winter is a bit less predictable. From December to early March, you might experience sun and reasonable temperatures, or it might be severe and overcast.

When you pack for the trip, keep in mind that casual dress is the norm for everyday sightseeing. This includes good walking shoes or sneakers, as well as layered clothing. For evenings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, you'll want to pack elegant casual clothes. And, if you plan to visit religious shrines, be aware that some require modest dress; arms and legs might need to be covered, and women might not be allowed to wear pants—only skirts and dresses.



Finally, don't forget your swimsuit! If the Dead Sea is on your itinerary, you'll want to pack waterproof shoes, too.

6) Documentation is a lot simpler than you might think. You might expect to have to round up a lot of paperwork in preparation for your trip to Israel. However, U.S. and Canadian citizens only need a passport that's valid for at least six months beyond their date of arrival in the country.

If you plan to stay in Israel for three months or less, a visa is not required. These same conditions apply to non-U.S. or Canadian citizens.

On the day you and your group depart, meet early and make sure all travelers have their passports and tickets. [✉](#)





Diving with dolphins in Eilat's Dolphin Reef (Photo by Tony Malkevist for Israel Ministry of Tourism)

7) Be prepared for a pre-flight security interview. (Sounds scary, but it shouldn't be.) If you're flying with EL AL Israel Airlines (or from Europe on Arkia Israel Airlines or Israir), you will be asked a variety of questions when you check in for your flight. Though some might seem not so politically correct, or strike you as intrusive, irrelevant or repetitive, the best approach is to keep your cool and go with the flow. Keep in mind that the questions are designed to protect you and your fellow passengers.

When you leave Israel — no matter what airline you're taking — expect to go through an identical process.

8) Consider common health concerns. *What if I get sick?* If you need to see a doctor while in Israel, check with your hotel concierge. Travel insurance (including medical coverage) is always recommended.

Rest assured that Israel has you in good medical hands; an ultra-modern country, it boasts the world's highest number of doctors per capita, as well as a health and hospital system that's envied the world over.

Are any pre-trip vaccinations required? No vaccinations are required to visit Israel. The only exception is if you have recently been in an area with epidemics of yellow fever, cholera or ebola.

Where can I buy medicine? And, can I bring my prescriptions with me? Over-the-counter equivalents of most North American drugs are available in Israel. You can also bring supplies of your standard prescription drugs with you. If those include syringes and vials of medicine, it's a good idea to bring along a letter from your doctor, just in case.

9) Money matters. It's a good idea to use your bank card to withdraw some Shekels — the Israeli currency — when you arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. Each Shekel is worth about 30 cents, but you can check the current exchange rate [online](#). You'll also find ATM machines all over Israel, and credit cards are widely accepted.

Additionally, small amounts of dollars or travelers' checks can be exchanged at a bank or your hotel.

10) It's easy to keep in touch with family and friends back home.

Especially for a church group, involving those back home in the experience is a priority. To that end, it's helpful to know that most hotels have free Wi-Fi in the lobby, and some provide it free in the rooms. Additionally, most hotels offer business centers where travelers can access email and the Internet for free.

Even better, American cellphones that work overseas will also work in Israel. Just keep in mind the time difference: it's six or seven hours ahead of the East Coast, depending on the time of year.

Planning a trip to Israel is similar to planning a trip anywhere — simple and straightforward. The difference is the destination: an unparalleled experience, especially for faith-based travelers. [CE](#)

— Reporting by RaeAnn Slaybaugh

In good faith — and good company

There's a reason 2014 was the best year *ever* for North American travel to Israel. Here, church-based travelers find an experience like no other.

For people of faith, Israel is rich with once-in-a-lifetime sites and experiences. Only here can pastors, their families and the church members who travel with them witness the bible come to life.

Simply stated, Israel isn't a trip — it's a spiritual experience. And, thanks to several extremely traveler-friendly traits, it's one that's well within reach.



Tel Aviv beach — aerial view (Photo taken by Dana Friedlander for the Israel Ministry of Tourism)

Tel Aviv night life (Photo taken by Dana Friedlander for the Israel Ministry of Tourism)

Jerusalem — a panoramic view of the Mount of Olives, and the Russian Orthodox Church of Mary Magdalene. (Photo by Noam Chen for Israel Ministry of Tourism)



Small stature, big impact

At about the size of New Jersey, you can make your way from one side of Israel to the other side in just hours.

In a relatively short visit — seven to 10 days is typical — you can experience four seas: “the Med, the Red, the Dead, and the Sea of Galilee.” From the beaches nearby, to the desert, to holy sites, to cities and so much more, the destinations are virtually endless ... and equally varied.

Interestingly, Tel Aviv (a super-modern city) and Jerusalem (a very, very old city) are only an hour's drive apart. Two wholly different, once-in-a-lifetime experiences in the time it takes for your daily commute!

Experiences you can *only* have in Israel

Visitors to Israel can certainly scuba dive, sky dive, go biking, parasailing, zip-lining and a lot more ... but church-based travelers can also expect singular, firsthand religious experiences that only a trip to Israel can deliver.

Especially for first-time travelers, the Dead Sea — frequently described as “amazing” and “special” — comes highly recommended. Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee are also cited as not-to-miss destinations.

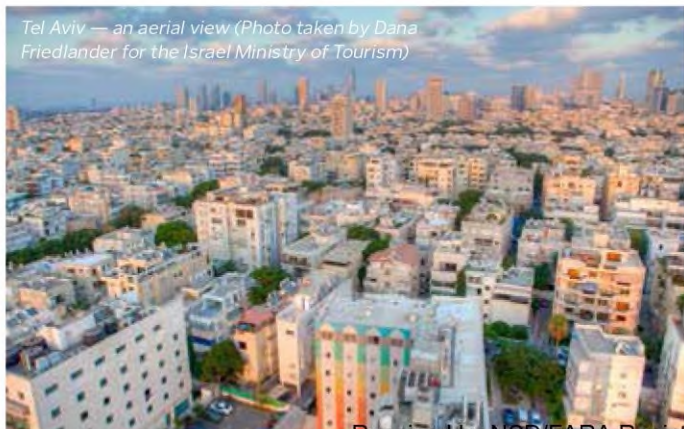
Fresh, delicious dining — all types of cuisine

The freshness and variety of dining options in Israel is a pleasant surprise for many travelers. You can find a McDonald's if you'd like; but, delicious vegetables and fruits are widely available and highly recommended.

At restaurants, the cuisine is representative of a mix of cultures, ranging from offerings by top-rated chefs to simpler, more traditional lunches. Tel Aviv is often compared to New York in terms of dining options — varied and plentiful. And, as in the Big Apple, many Tel Aviv restaurants are open late. ➡



Tel Aviv — an aerial view (Photo taken by Dana Friedlander for the Israel Ministry of Tourism)



A blooming tree at Ein Gedi Botanical Garden. (Photo taken by Itamar Grinberg for the Israel Ministry of Tourism)



Dead Sea in Israel (Photo by Itamar Grinberg)



It's modern. Very modern.

Some travelers imagine Israel as mostly desert and a bit archaic. Not so — and not by a long shot.

Israel is the world's second-largest creator of IT software and systems. For all intents and purposes, it's "Silicon Valley East."

In terms of *personal* technology — critical for groups of church-based travelers eager to stay connected with loved ones at home — you won't have a difficult time finding a Wi-Fi network, usually as close as the hotel lobby or your own room). And, if your data plan includes international coverage, your cell phone will very likely work in Israel.

It's safe.

Every year, between 3 million and 4 million travelers visit Israel and return home again, safe and sound. More than 90 airlines fly to Israel, as well — a further testament to its safety. Among them are as many as 10 nonstop flights per day from North America on Air Canada, Delta, United and US Air.

It's easy to navigate.

Most visitors to Israel don't expect it to be so easy to get around. Even solo travelers have an easy time of it, as much of the signage is in English. Buses and trains are widely available.

Groups of travelers often have an even simpler time of it, as most travel on a dedicated tour bus. The itinerary is typically prearranged by a tour operator; all they need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the experience.

Even so, life happens and people can get lost. If you do, it helps to know that almost everyone in Israel knows English. They teach it in elementary school, even before 3rd grade.

You'll also be relieved to find banks on just about every street corner.

Simply stated, it's life-changing.

One common theme resonating through the testimonials of scores of church-based travelers is how deeply spiritual the travel experience proved to be — even beyond what was expected. Quite a few faith-based travelers describe the journey as "life-changing."

Now that you've explored Israel digitally, consider the real deal.

If you're like so many faith-based travelers, you're likely to fall in love with the country — and maybe even return again and again to experience, up close, the holy places you've only read about in the bible. [CE](#)

— Reporting by RaeAnn Slaybaugh



Pickles shop in the Carmel Market, Tel Aviv (Photo taken by Dana Friedlander for the Israel Ministry of Tourism)

The top 10

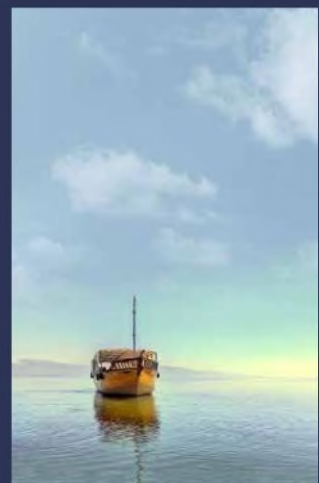
recommended
sites and
experiences for
all faith-based
Travelers



#1 Garden Tomb

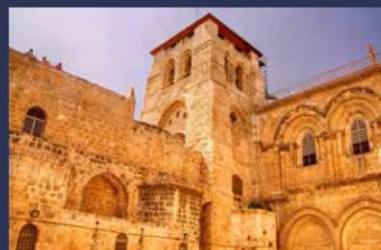


#3 Baptism site



#2 Sea of Galilee

Catholic Christians will love...



#1 Church of the Holy Sepulchre



#2 Via Dolorosa



#3 Mount of Beatitudes



#4 Garden of Gethsemane



#5 Southern Temple Steps Excavations



#7 Mount Zion — Upper room



#9 Armageddon — Megiddo



#6 Capernaum



#8 The Dead Sea



#10 Mount of Olives



#4 Church of the Annunciation



#6 Church of All Nations



#8 Ein Karem



#5 Sea of Galilee (sea and the boat)



#7 Tabgha



#9 Mount of Olives



#10 Mount Tabor

THIS ISRAEL EXPERIENCE:

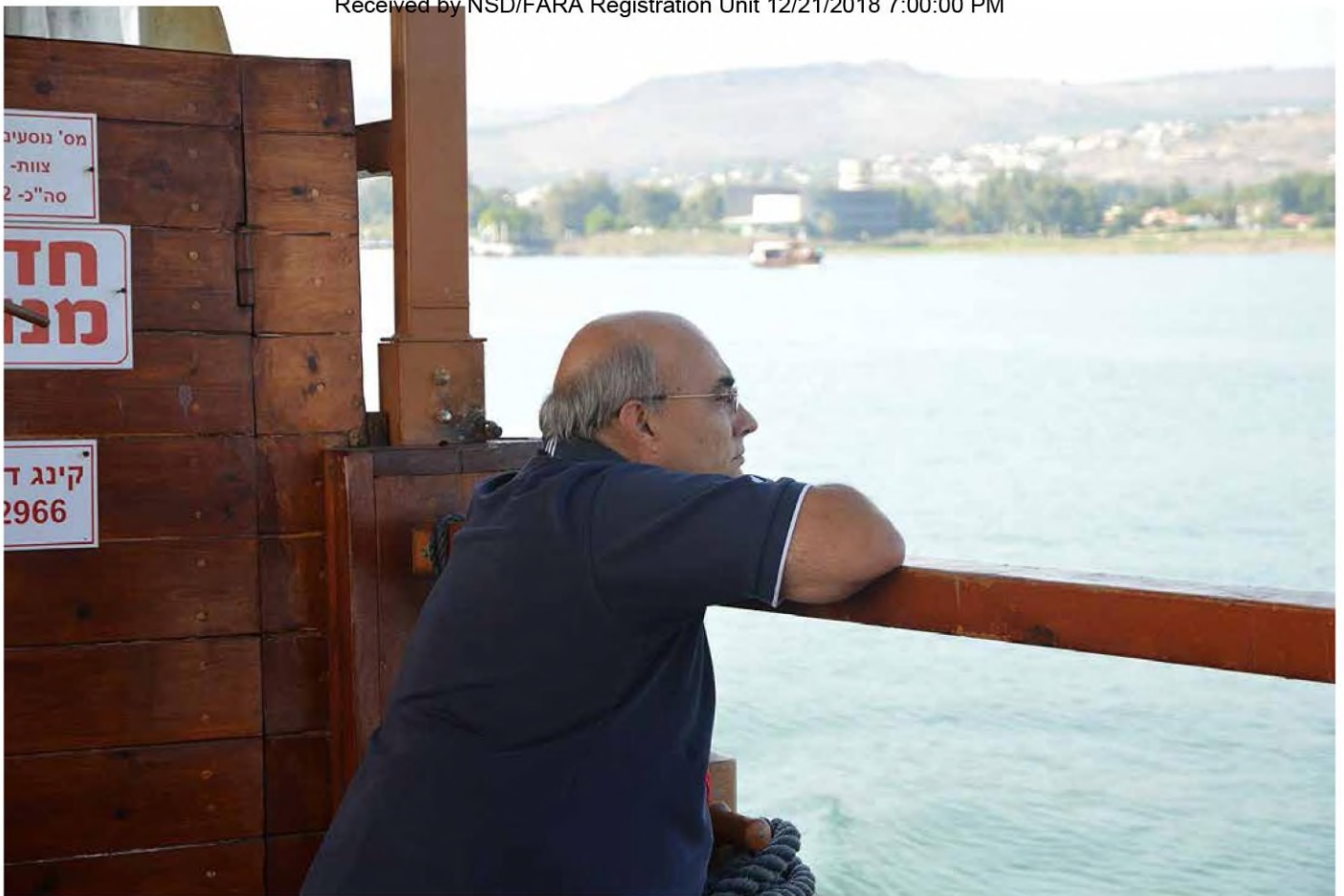
***safer** than you might think*

A church leader taking members to Israel (or on any mission trip) will, appropriately, prioritize safety. To this end, there are some common misconceptions regarding travel to Israel.

No one knows these better than Denise Bossert, Public Relations Director, Midwest Region, for Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT).



Denise Bossert at Qumran



Bossert's first trip to Israel came in 2014, as a journalist and guest of IMOT. She spent 10 days in-country. Though Bossert had worked as a writer and syndicated columnist for a decade, that trip was the beginning of the faith travel writing stage of her career.

Just six months later, she returned to Israel; she visited again last April. Last year was also when Bossert led her first faith-based tour group to Israel as an IMOT employee.

Today, she has the opportunity to travel to Israel once or twice a year. It's an excellent benefit because, as Bossert explains, "Israel has become my ultimate destination."

Fears – and facts

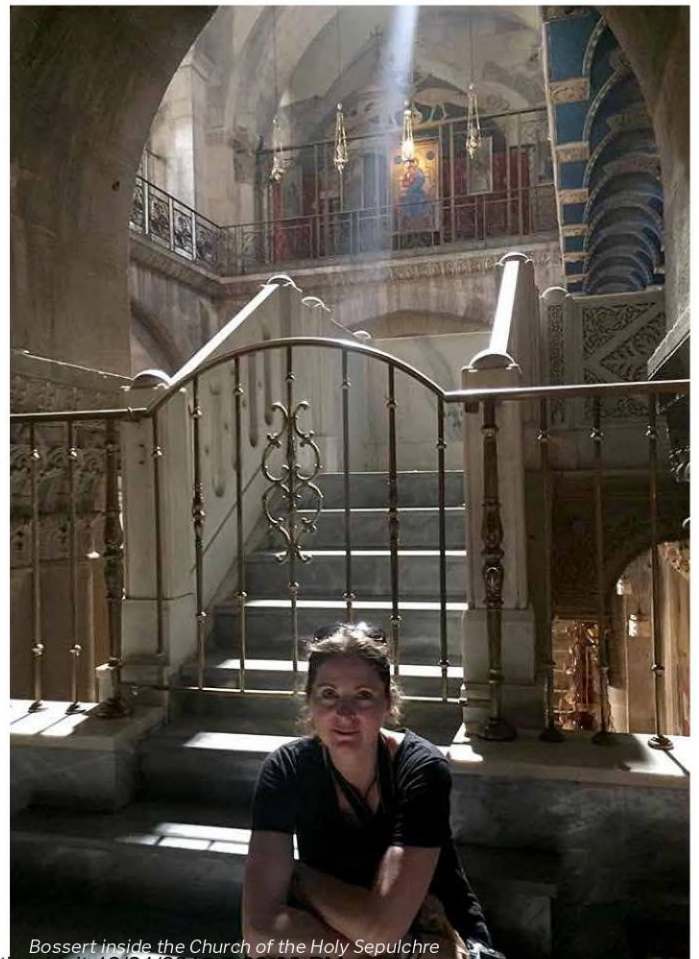
For many people, flying itself is scary. Bossert knows this fear firsthand. "I flew to England in my 20's — and I didn't fly again until probably four years ago [at age 50]," she says. "Now, I fly so much that it's like catching the bus or getting on Amtrak. It's easy, and I don't worry about it."

Then, of course, there are the fears associated with flying to Israel, specifically. To that end, Bossert says El Al Airline is extremely secure, with the top-notch security measures in place.

Even for domestic flights, travelers undergo security screening at airports in Israel. "It's extensive in that you'll be asked questions about where you're going, who you're traveling with, and where you'll be staying," she explains. "Then, when you leave the country, [they'll ask] where you stayed, who you traveled with, and what your purpose was for being [in Israel]."

While this might sound intimidating, Bossert points out that the screeners are very polite. "They just let travelers know that they simply must be vigilant and take security very seriously."

Additionally, faith-based travelers are familiar territory for security personnel, as Bossert points out. "When you say, 'I'm traveling with a group; it's faith-based; we're going to some of the holy sites,' there's a pretty standard set of questions you go through." And, as tour group operators, Bossert and her team have helped travelers prepare for them many times.



Bossert inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



When you arrive at your hotel, you might be asked for your passport. And, though you might not see the vigilant security personnel, they're very likely nearby. "That's what they do," Bossert says. "They may not have a gun where you can see it, but they're ensuring your security."

Of course, armed military personnel aren't a familiar sight for most Americans. To this end, Bossert recalls one tour group who, on their travels, noticed Israeli defense forces carrying guns. "It made them a little nervous," she admits. "But I said, 'Doesn't it also give you a sense of security? Because they're here to *protect* you.'"

Holy sites, in particular, are rife with security measures. Visitors to the Western Wall, for example, are likely to benefit from bag-scanning. "So, I would highly recommend visiting there," Bossert says. "It's such a wonderful opportunity to pray. It's one of the places that would have been there at the time of Christ. It's just part of the landscape."

This vigilant and experienced approach to security has made Israel a very safe travel destination. "They've just learned through the years how to implement [security measures]," Bossert says. "Meanwhile, some of the soft targets in Europe are becoming more and more dangerous because they haven't done the same. Israel is really ahead of the curve when it comes to security."

"In Israel, there's an overall sense of security," she adds. "Whether you're visiting what we think of as a traditional biblical holy site, or you're at the Dead Sea, or you're at Masada, or you're at the holocaust museum, there's a sense of security. Generally speaking, there's always someone there to just be vigilant — train, bus or plane."

All this emphasis on safety and security is borne out in Israel's low crime rates. Bossert cites several recent statistics from NationMaster.com that will probably surprise many American travelers:

- Gun crimes are 12 times more likely to occur in the U.S. than in Israel.
- The violent crime rating and rank in the U.S. is 82 times higher than in Israel.
- Rape and other violent crimes are 60 times more likely in the U.S. than in Israel.

As a nation, Israelis have been raised with a love of country and a commitment to the security of their fellow citizens. "I think part of the reason for that is mandatory military service," Bossert points out. "Young people spend two years in the military, so everyone has been trained in how to be vigilant."

An experience like no other

So, yes, it's a safer destination than most. But, as Bossert points out, the reasons for visiting Israel transcend fear and hesitation: these are the places where Jesus walked. Where he performed his miracles and rose from the dead.



"For those reasons, there is a sense of grace all around you," she says. "The sense of the holy is so palpable that you actually feel safer than you do anywhere at home — except perhaps in the place where you pray or do your devotionals. It's [a feeling] like that, but it's that way all the time [in the Holy Land]. It's like entering into your prayer space; it stays like that the entire time you're there."

Indeed, a visit to Israel is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk where Christ walked and where the Bible comes to life.

Among Bossert's favorite sites are Mount Carmel, Nazareth and Cana in Galilee, and the Sea of Galilee. "Everyone on the Sea of Galilee has a moment of grace," she says. "It's fantastic."

But, personal moments of grace also happen everywhere else in Israel. "It can't be predicted, but everyone has their own personal moment of grace in a certain place," she adds.

It might be at Mount Tabor, where the transfiguration occurred. From there, your group might visit Caesarea Philippi (Banias), which is further north, not far from the Golan Heights. Then, you might drop down to Jerusalem and go to the Old City, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden, too. After this, you might divert from the usual faith travel journey to visit Masada — more of a Jewish historical site, but highly recommended because "it really harkens to the Psalms and being in high places," according to Bossert.

"As Christians, we talk about 'mountaintop experiences,'" she adds. "We have one, and then we come down and it's done. In Israel, it just keeps hitting you, over and over: grace, upon grace, upon grace. You'll be somewhere, and you'll see a sign to Nazareth. A sign to Jericho. A sign to Cana. Jerusalem. And you'll realize you're informed for this experience — that your entire faith life has been preparing you for this."



Photo courtesy of garyfrazier.com

A seasoned traveler's perspective

Q&A with Dr. Gary Frazier

Dr. Gary Frazier founded Dallas-based Discovery Missions International in 1985. A former pastor, Frazier has traveled to Israel 187 times since 1971, most recently in June. He and his team have taken more than 1,800 pastors — and thousands of believers — to the Land of the Bible.

Q: What are your thoughts on the safety of flying into and out of Israel?

Frazier: It should be noted — as the National carrier of Israel — EL AL has maintained the highest level of security in the airline industry, worldwide. No traveler should worry about flying to Israel; just be concerned about getting from your home to the plane safely!

Q: Are there things travelers should know about the hotel experience in Israel, security-wise?

Frazier: It goes without saying that one's own safety largely depends upon themselves. So, precautions should be taken — whether in Israel or any other place in the world.

Q: We understand that vigilant security measures might “fly under the radar” a bit in Israel, but they’re very likely nearby. Is this accurate, based on your experiences?

Frazier: Travelers should know that all Israelis go into the military at 18, with few exceptions. And, the men serve in reserve status until age 50. Therefore, every Jewish man walking down the street is a trained soldier!

It can be strange, however, for travelers to walk into a bank and see people — soldiers, mostly — in line to make a deposit or cash a check with an Uzi machine gun slung over their shoulder. So, think twice before attempting to rob a bank on your visit to Israel! [laughs]

Q: Are there any other aspects of travel safety that you believe are important to share with faith-based travelers to Israel?

Frazier: I would add that, in my opinion, the best safety factor is group travel — safety in numbers.

I would also refer to the minute number of tourists injured in Israel since its statehood!

It all begins with prayer

Bossert remembers well her one-time reservations and misconceptions about traveling to Israel. “But not anymore,” she enthuses. “I love the way I feel when I’m there — and that’s coming from a woman who didn’t travel for many years. I turn 53 this week, and here I am: I love traveling, and Israel is my favorite place on earth because of my Christian faith.”

Experiences like hers — and those of so many other fellow faith-based travelers — are important factors in the decision. To that end, Bossert says, “I’ve never once heard someone come back [from Israel] and say, ‘Oh, that was kind of scary.’ Never.”

What she *has* heard:

It was the experience of a lifetime.

I’m so glad I went when I was in my 30’s / 40’s. Now, I have a lifetime of reading the Bible and immediately being able to feel my spirit back there in Israel. I can know just what it’s like; I can truly envision it.

But don’t just take their word for it. Before you decide, Bossert has some unflinching advice: pray.

“Ask God: ‘Is this where you want me to go?’ ‘Do you want me to experience and walk where Jesus walked?’ ‘Do you want me to see these places that really exist, and all of the scripture that I’ve read — to see what happens by being in those holy places?’”

“If you get a sense of peace in response, then I think that’s worth paying attention to.” **CE**

— Reporting by RaeAnn Slaybaugh

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CHRISTIANITY

How God Speaks to Us through Dreams and Visions

Don't miss His voice and what He is trying to tell you.

By Leslie White



If you're wondering if God speaks to us through dreams and visions, the answer is yes. The Bible tells us, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28). God actively speaks to us through them and these can have scriptural meaning. If you're looking to better understand how God speaks to us through dreams and visions, here are six ways God uses these messages to reveal His purpose for your life. Pay attention to what He is telling you. He may be speaking to you right now and you don't even know it. When we understand what God is saying to us, we can communicate with Him in a new way and also live in His purpose.

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INSPIRATION

5 Tricks to Live Life to the Fullest

Have a rewarding and joyous life no matter what.

By Corine Gotti



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Are you kidding me? There are tricks to live life to the fullest? There might be a hesitation to believe this due to feeling depressed or hopeless over time. You may feel nothing will work. If that is the thought pattern, then we have a lot of work to do. Thoughts will pop into the mind continuously through the day, and most of them will not be beneficial. If the average number of thoughts we have per day is 70,000, with an estimated 3,000 thoughts per hour, no wonder there is a battle to keep joy flowing. We can be realistic that we can't capture all the negative (thoughts, events, or circumstances) in a day and discard it so easy, but in the process we can thrive by making small changes. American comedian Groucho Marx once said we have the power, and we do. Use what you have to overcome and live life to the



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fullest. "Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it." Make today a new beginning.

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MUSIC

6 Love Songs to Make You Cry

Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.



Love is one of those elements in life that is truly unexplainable. Once you're under its spell, there's no telling what you will do because it's captivating. What you once would have deemed as crazy and senseless, suddenly seems just another action of love. There are a few songs that sum up love and identify an instance or two of true love. Whether it's through heartbreak or true love, love can make you cry and so can these songs. Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.

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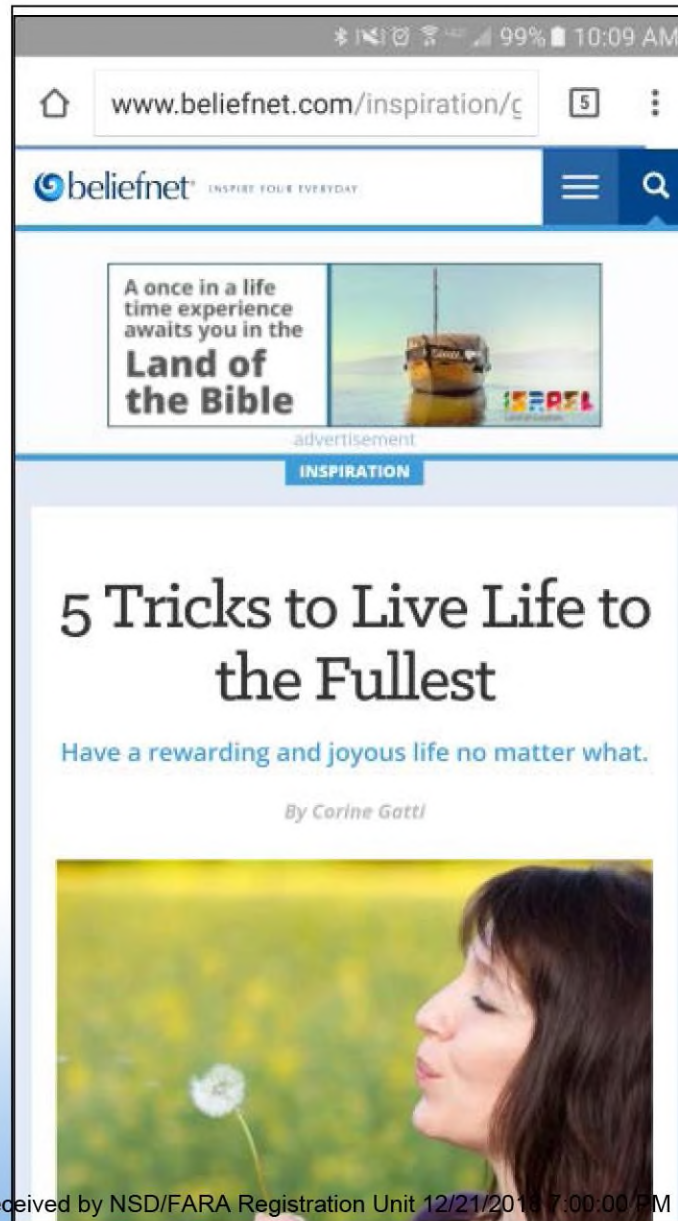
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Roasted Rosemary Pork with Asparagus

Let the aroma enchant you.



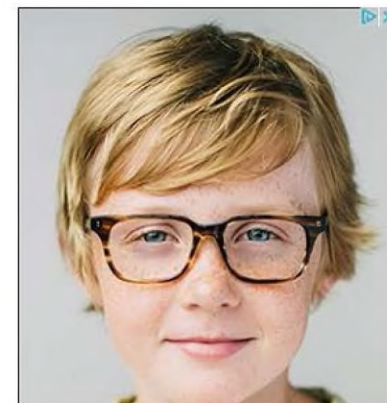
Ingredients

- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 4 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

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A GREAT RELATIONSHIP IS ALL ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON OVER & OVER AGAIN

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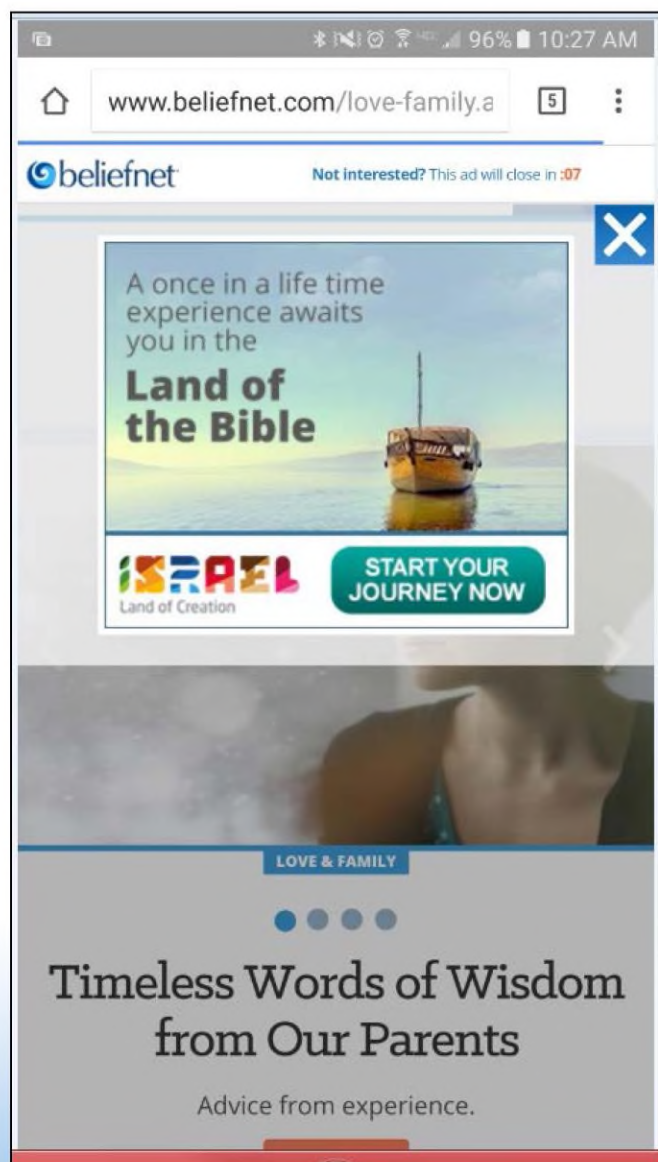
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Joshua 1:1-18

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people,..." [\[read more\]](#)

Today's Christian Inspiration

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Numbers 17:25 – 18:20

The Lord said to Moses, "Put Aaron's staff back before the Pact, to be kept as a lesson to rebels, so that their mutterings against Me may cease, lest they die." This Moses did; just as the Lord had... [read more](#)

The 10 Dreams of Genesis

Ten is a big number in Judaism: Everyone knows about the 10 commandments, but God also created the world with 10 ineffable statements; and the Torah records 10 songs.

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7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago is full of history, but here are the facts you didn't know!

7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago was incorporated as a city in 1837 and is now the third most populous city in the United States. It's known for being a busy hub with something always going on. A true city that never sleeps. What a fun city to be in. Chicago is filled with a rich history of many famous inventors, notable celebrities, and prestigious Universities. What you might not know, however, are some of the other crazy fun facts about this city. There are tons of them! Everyone knows that the deep dish pizza was invented here, but did you also know Chicago is home to the first successful open heart surgery? We didn't think so! Read through the 7 most interesting facts you didn't know about Chicago to see what this city is really all about. Then, share with your friends and see who knew the most facts in the list.

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Prayers for Travel When Visiting Loved Ones

Ease your mind with these prayers that are specified for travelers and their families.



Whether it be driving to work, visiting a loved one or going on vacation – traveling in general can cause people to become anxious and stressed. It's typical for people to ask for mercy and request their guardian angels to keep a watchful eye during their travels. Asking for protection is a common prayer when visiting loved ones because there are a lot of people traveling during peak times and most people feel vulnerable.

Ease your mind with these prayers that are specified for travelers and their families. Not only will travelers find comfort by communicating with God and their angels but they'll also discover an overwhelming sense of peace that embodies their existence during their

time away with loved ones.



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Inspired by Israel: Biblical Hope from the Holy Land

I needed to feel inspired and encouraged that God had an ultimate plan, a calling for our lives. Restless like many, I found a peace beyond the political climate seen on the nightly news and my own inner craziness in Israel. I was surprised and humbled that this small country in the Middle East was inundated with date trees, dense forests, breathtaking beauty-and a connection to a living God.



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CHRISTIANITY

How God Speaks to Us through Dreams and Visions

Don't miss His voice and what He is trying to tell you.

By Leslie White



If you're wondering if God speaks to us through dreams and visions, the answer is yes. The Bible tells us, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28). God actively speaks to us through them and these can have scriptural meaning. If you're looking to better understand how God speaks to us through dreams and visions, here are six ways God uses these messages to reveal His purpose for your life. Pay attention to what He is telling you. He may be speaking to you right now and you don't even know it. When we understand what God is saying to us, we can communicate with Him in a new way and also live in His purpose.

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INSPIRATION

5 Tricks to Live Life to the Fullest

Have a rewarding and joyous life no matter what.

By Corine Gotti



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Are you kidding me? There are tricks to live life to the fullest? There might be a hesitation to believe this due to feeling depressed or hopeless over time. You may feel nothing will work. If that is the thought pattern, then we have a lot of work to do. Thoughts will pop into the mind continuously through the day, and most of them will not be beneficial. If the average number of thoughts we have per day is 70,000, with an estimated 3,000 thoughts per hour, no wonder there is a battle to keep joy flowing. We can be realistic that we can't capture all the negative (thoughts, events, or circumstances) in a day and discard it so easy, but in the process we can thrive by making small changes. American comedian Groucho Marx once said we have the power, and we do. Use what you have to overcome and live life to the



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fullest. "Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it." Make today a new beginning.

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6 Love Songs to Make You Cry

Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.



Love is one of those elements in life that is truly unexplainable. Once you're under its spell, there's no telling what you will do because it's captivating. What you once would have deemed as crazy and senseless, suddenly seems just another action of love. There are a few songs that sum up love and identify an instance or two of true love. Whether it's through heartbreak or true love, love can make you cry and so can these songs. Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.

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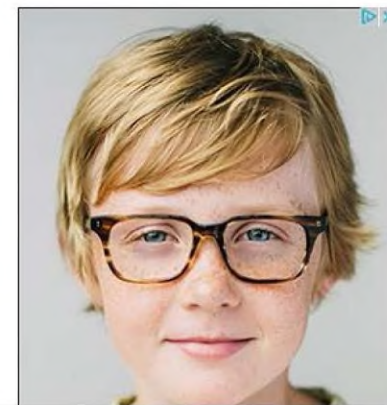
Ingredients

- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 4 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

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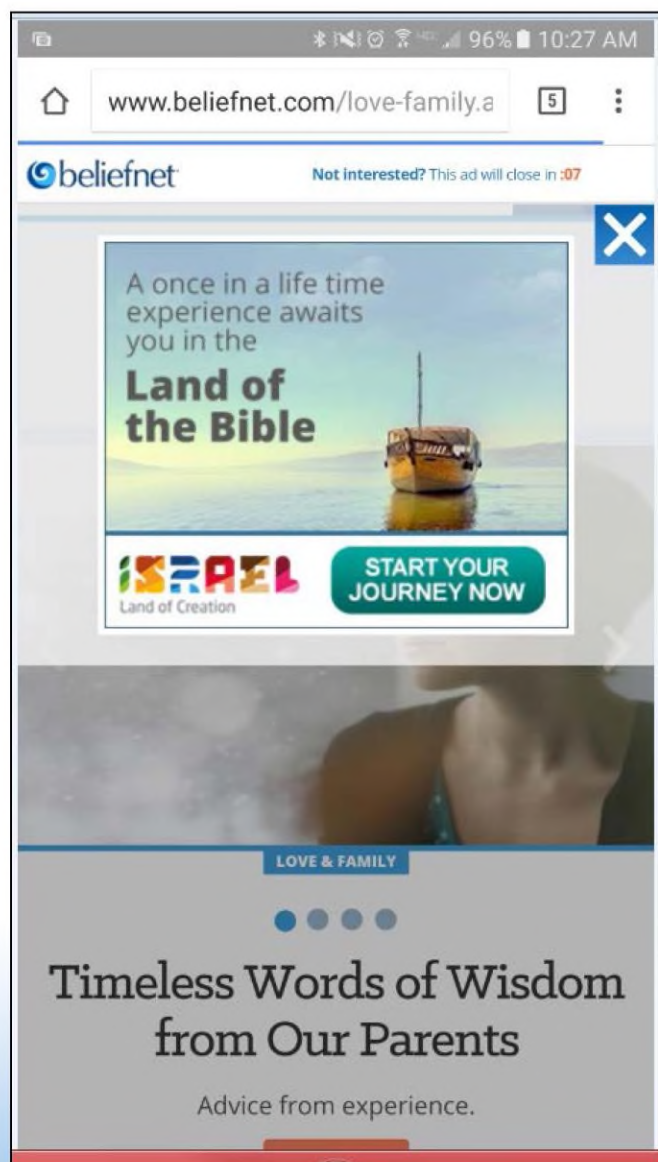
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Today's Bible Verse




Joshua 1:1-18

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Today's Christian Inspiration

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Numbers 17:25 – 18:20

The Lord said to Moses, "Put Aaron's staff back before the Pact, to be kept as a lesson to rebels, so that their mutterings against Me may cease, lest they die." This Moses did; just as the Lord had... [read more »](#)

The 10 Dreams of Genesis



Ten is a big number in Judaism: Everyone knows about the 10 commandments, but God also created the world with 10 ineffable statements; and the Torah records 10 songs.

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TRAVEL

7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago is full of history, but here are the facts you didn't know!

7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago was incorporated as a city in 1837 and is now the third most populous city in the United States. It's known for being a busy hub with something always going on. A true city that never sleeps. What a fun city to be in. Chicago is filled with a rich history of many famous inventors, notable celebrities, and prestigious Universities. What you might not know, however, are some of the other crazy fun facts about this city. There are tons of them! Everyone knows that the deep dish pizza was invented here, but did you also know Chicago is home to the first successful open heart surgery? We didn't think so! Read through the 7 most interesting facts you didn't know about Chicago to see what this city is really all about. Then, share with your friends and see who knew the most facts in the list.

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Maxine Bailey is a Writer at Love for Beliefnet

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time away with loved ones.

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Spiritually Empty: 6 Reasons Why a Trip to Israel will Change a Christian's Life

By Israel Ministry of Tourism








Specific ways a trip to the Holy Land will deepen your faith.

There are countless reasons why Christians should visit Israel. Not only is Israel a country of immense beauty, history and culture, but it is also the biblical Holy Land — the place where Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection took place. For these reasons, millions of Christians have traveled to Israel to make a pilgrimage to the place where "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". If you travel to Israel, you will have the opportunity to walk along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, pray at the walls of the original Temple of Jerusalem, and reflect within the Garden of Gethsemane. You will also have the chance to walk the same stone paths that Jesus walked. Christians who have visited the land of the Bible have had their faith and biblical knowledge enhanced in transformative ways. They have said their lives were forever changed because of their visit. Here are six reasons why a trip to Israel will change your life.

1. The Bible Will Come Alive

As you walk down the same roads that Jesus did during His earthly ministry, the Bible will come alive! You will no longer have to imagine the places, names and events in the Bible. These will now become real, living images. You will be able to feel the words of Scripture, visit archaeological remains of many of the cities, trace the stories in Scripture on maps and explore where the stories of the Bible all began. The biblical places and events you have read about in the Bible will no longer seem a world away; the pages of your Bible will be made more alive and real.





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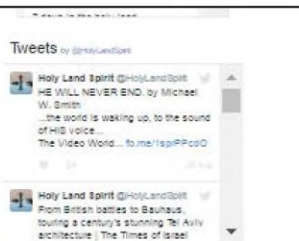
2. You Will Experience God's Presence in a New Way

A spiritual pilgrimage is an opportunity to break away from your regular routine to concentrate on your spiritual life without distractions — a time for prayer and meditation, learning and enrichment. It is the pilgrimage that surpasses all others. While we can pray anywhere in the world and experience Jesus' presence in our lives, a spiritual pilgrimage to Israel will allow you to experience God's presence in a whole new way. Many Christians who have traveled to the Holy Land have said that during their travels to various locations, they felt God's presence around them. Israel is the perfect retreat, the perfect place to seek the Lord, the only place to walk where Jesus walked and encounter the source for the parables He used from everyday life and to hear His word as though for the first time.



3. It Will Change Your Understanding

A journey to Israel will provide you with a deeper, clearer and more vibrant understanding of the Bible. So many Christians focus on the Bible for its spiritual meaning and forget that the Bible is also historical text. At a time when the Bible is under attack, a visit to Israel can strengthen your understanding of the Bible and the veracity of the history and stories contained within it. Jesus said the Gospel would go out from Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth, and it is in Jerusalem where some of the most pivotal events of the Bible took place. Your understanding of Scripture will grow with every step you take in the land of Israel.



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4. You Will Hear Powerful Testimonies of God at Work

If you travel to Israel and listen to the stories of local believers, you will hear powerful testimonies of God at work in their lives. Some will share how the Lord has revealed Himself through dreams and visions. Others will share how they've witnessed miraculous occurrences. These stories will inspire you. Visiting Israel is also an opportunity to discover ways you and your church can partner with local ministries to aid in God's calling to help the people who live here. As Scripture says, you will be blessed by being a blessing to the people of Israel.



5. You Can Pray More Effectively for Israel and the World

While we know from Scripture that the Jewish people are God's chosen people, many Christians don't understand the connection between Israel and the Church. Throughout the Bible, God calls for the peace of Israel and commands our support and aid of Israel. Israel is precious to God, the apple of His eye, chosen by Him among all other nations; He holds them in the strength of His own hands. He also instructs us to be the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem and pray day and night until God's promises to the Jewish people, which will bless the world, are fulfilled. A trip to Israel will allow you to meet Israel's face to face and speak encouragement to them. Your firsthand experiences in Israel will help you to pray more effectively for Israel, the region and the world.



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6. Your Heart Will Be Opened

If you are eager to deepen your relationship with God and discover new facets of your faith, Israel is the place to visit. Not only will your relationship with Scripture change after your visit, but also your relationship with God. Once you have had the opportunity to visit the sites of the Bible, walk on holy ground, and reflect in the places where Jesus traveled and prayed, you can begin to search His Word with more passion and wonder and open your heart to God's incredible power. You will be surrounded by examples of fulfilled prophecy and see that God is keeping His promises to Israel. Your visit will also allow you to see God's faithfulness and the truth of His Word.



A trip to Israel will transform your life in ways that you couldn't imagine. It isn't until you visit the Holy Land for yourself that you can truly appreciate it. If you have the time and the means to go to Israel, please go, especially if you want to grow in your faith and biblical understanding. Consider taking a trip to the Holy Land of the Bible today. Visit <http://www.land-of-the-bible.com/>









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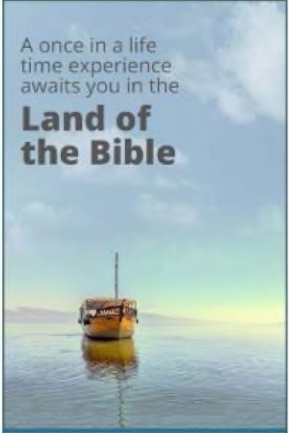
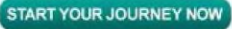


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
A Hiking Pilgrimage

Jesus' Trail in Galilee

By Wesley Baines





The Jesus Trail, a hiking trail in the Galilee region of Israel, allows visitors a rare opportunity—to experience the most important historical sites from the life of Jesus.

In fiction, there is a concept known as show vs. tell. Showing with words—engaging readers' senses by drawing them into the sights and smells and textures of a fictional world. This makes for a much more vivid storytelling experience, one that transcends the page so that the images may come alive. Telling, on the other hand, is just that—a summary of what happened, devoid of life and force and feeling.

The Bible is often called the greatest story ever told, but many only ever experience the story through summary, through removed analysis or vague platitudes. They don't get to feel the wood of the cross or the rough stone of the ancient Temple, or breathe the fresh air of the Sea of Galilee.

But visiting Israel, and entering the very setting of the Biblical narrative, allows you to experience "showing" at its very best and to experience the real places in which the Biblical story is set.

Jesus is a polarizing figure—an influential false messiah in the Jewish tradition, the son of God for Christians, and a mythological figure or exceptionally wise human being for the atheist—but none can contest His cultural significance. Whether Jesus represents man, messiah, or myth to you, His is a fascinating life, worthy of study. And what better way to learn than through personal experience? Let's take a look at the main areas of interest the Jesus trail provides—these pieces of history which bring the Biblical story to life.

The Jesus Trail is a 65-kilometer journey that can be completed in 3 to 5 days by the average hiker. The trail passes through towns and villages, giving travelers the opportunity to renew supplies throughout the route, and so it is user-friendly even to inexperienced hikers. Travelers have the option to either hike on their own, or to take a number of guided tours through

<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/a-hiking-pilgrimage-jesus-trail-in-galilee>

A Hiking Pilgrimage

The journey begins in Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus and center of Christian pilgrimage. It was here that Jesus read from the scrolls, according to Luke 4:16. In Nazareth, you'll find the largest church in the Middle East—the Church of the Annunciation— as well as numerous other sites commemorating Biblical events.

Traveling from Nazareth to Cana is a journey of 13.5 kilometers, and brings you to the site of Jesus' first miracle—the transformation of water into wine, according to the Gospel of John. Cana is the official site of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Imagine yourself in the town where the glory of Jesus was revealed to His disciples for the very first time.

From Cana, you'll travel to Kibbutz Lavi, a distance of 14.4 kilometers of forest ridge with beautiful views of the valley below. A kibbutz is a communal settlement, often a farm, and Kibbutz Lavi is one of the few religious Jewish kibbutzim in the country. There, you can enjoy a swimming pool and kosher buffet.

From there, you'll hike 16.1 kilometers, ascending the Horns of Hattin, and catching a glimpse of the famous Sea of Galilee, and the tomb of Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. Finally, you'll arrive in Moshav Arbel, where you'll find excellent food and lodgings.

From Moshav Arbel, you'll travel 16.8 kilometers to your final destination of Capernaum, the village at the north corner of the Sea of Galilee, and the historical seat of Jesus' ministry. Capernaum features the ruins of the home of Simon Peter, and many other Biblical and archaeological sites of interest. It was here that Jesus also exorcised a possessed man, and healed Peter's sickly mother-in-law.

There is great value in being able to place the Biblical narrative within its historical and cultural context, and Israel and the Jesus Trail provide this opportunity. To see the actual places in which Jesus moved and lived bestows upon the believer a greater understanding of His life, and a fuller comprehension of all that occurred during that unique era in human history. No other experience or education renders such depth in the essential elements of interpreting and understanding the Bible.

There is a particular grace to be gained in hiking the Jesus Trail, a peace that resides not within ruins or walls or relics, but in the spaces between—those lengths of the path which pass through open land and natural splendor. The beauty of the Israeli countryside serves to quiet the busy mind, and encourages contemplation—contemplation which is absolutely necessary.

For many, the sites along the trail are not just sacred, but living, breathing embodiment of that which is most holy—the places where the Son of God lived, died, rose, and ascended into the heavens. Encountering sites of such significance takes time—time that is best taken slowly, at a walking pace rather than with the speed of a rumbling engine. Nature has always been the place where we have shed the trappings and distractions of modern life in favor of uninterrupted thought. Even Jesus sought the remote places of this land in order to commune with God the Father.

Whatever reasons you might have for visiting Israel, and for walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the Jesus Trail is an enlightening journey through history and natural beauty. The mission of the Jesus Trail team is to "provide the best possible hiking routes between locations that are significant to the Biblical story of Jesus in the Galilee region of Israel," and they do so without regard to race, theology, creed, gender, age, or disability. All are welcome to explore and gain new understanding of the life of Jesus, not only through the land, but through the people and the cultures which now inhabit it.

Come experience Israel and the Jesus Trail, and immerse yourself in history, culture, and spirituality.

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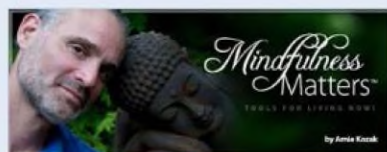
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OLYMPICS

Interesting Historical Facts Behind the Olympic Games

These amazing Olympic facts will blow your mind!

By Leah White








The modern Olympic Games or Olympics are the leading international sporting event featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes around the world compete for Gold and to claim dominance in their competitive sport. The Olympic Games are also considered to be the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating. While millions of people tune into Olympic coverage when the Games are held, there are a number of facts about the history of the Olympics that many people don't know. As the Olympics approach us, let's take a look at some amazing facts and traditions that make up part of this celebrated global event:



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The First Olympics and The Game's Evolution

The first Olympics started in ancient Greece from the 8th century B.C. to the 4th century A.D. They were dedicated to the Olympian gods and were staged on the ancient plains of Olympia. The Games were closely linked to the religious festivals of the cult of Zeus. The games continued nearly 12 centuries until Emperor Theodosius decreed in 393 A.D. that all such "pagan cults" be banned. The Games were resurrected in the late 19th century with the help of Baron Pierre de Coubertin who founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. During this period, only men were allowed to take part in the Olympic Games. Women first took part in the Games in Paris in 1900, four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens. There were 22 women out of 997 athletes who competed. participation has increased over the years with women accounting for more than 44

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Understanding the Biblical Call to Shalom

Shalom is our calling as followers of Jesus' Gospel.

By Lesli White







In a day of depressing headlines and uncertainty, it's inspiring to hear good news. The word Gospel means "Good News," so the Gospel of Christ is the Good News of His coming to provide forgiveness of sins for all who believe. The Bible tells us, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). What better news could there be than Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins so that we might become the children of God through faith alone in Christ alone? But for many Christians, the Good News of the Gospel doesn't seem good enough. When we turn on the nightly news, we still see violence, anger and brokenness. When we look at our relationships, we deal with anxiety and drama. When we look at the comment thread of any post shared on social media, we are bombarded with racial tension and hate. So many people are missing out on the biblical call to shalom, says author Lisa Sharon Harper in her book "The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Can Be Made Right."

Harper's account of the Gospel is shalom-based. This is a theme that runs though the Bible but is especially strong in the Hebrew prophets. In this account, God acts in Jesus Christ to bring shalom, or holistic peace and justice, in every part of creation. God wants shalom between all types of people: shalom between men and women, shalom for the disenfranchised, and shalom in our homes. God wants shalom to cross racial divides and



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"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, "I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are dead. Awake, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in..."

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Holy Land – Summer 2016 Commercial #1 – Bob / :30

“Bob Benes here and I want to talk to you about a life changing experience. I’m talking about a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After traveling there myself, believe me when I say, that the gospel readings during Mass come to life. The Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Temple Mount create vivid memories of the places Jesus walked. Take this once in a lifetime journey and you’ll want to go back...I sure do. More details at Relevant Radio dot com, keyword Holy Land.”

Holy Land – Summer 2016 Commercial #2 – Bob / :30

“Walk in the land of our Lord’s life, death, resurrection and ascension. Bob Benes here encouraging you to take a once in a lifetime pilgrimage that will bring the Liturgical Calendar and Mass Readings to life...for the rest of your life. A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is easier than you think, costs less than you think and is safer than you think. Take a journey to the land where our faith began. Follow in the recent footsteps of Pope Francis. More details at Relevant Radio dot com, keyword Holy Land.”


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How God Speaks to Us through Dreams and Visions

Don't miss His voice and what He is trying to tell you.

By Leslie White




If you're wondering if God speaks to us through dreams and visions, the answer is yes. The Bible tells us, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28). God actively speaks to us through them and these can have scriptural meaning. If you're looking to better understand how God speaks to us through dreams and visions, here are six ways God uses these messages to reveal His purpose for your life. Pay attention to what He is telling you. He may be speaking to you right now and you don't even know it. When we understand what God is saying to us, we can communicate with Him in a new way and also live in His purpose.



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INSPIRATION

5 Tricks to Live Life to the Fullest

Have a rewarding and joyous life no matter what.

By Corine Gatti



Are you kidding me? There are tricks to live life to the fullest? There might be a hesitation to believe this due to feeling depressed or hopeless over time. You may feel nothing will work. If that is the thought pattern, then we have a lot of work to do. Thoughts will pop into the mind continuously through the day, and most of them will not be beneficial. If the average number of thoughts we have per day is 70,000, with an estimated 3,000 thoughts per hour, no wonder there is a battle to keep joy flowing. We can be realistic that we can't capture all the negative (thoughts, events, or circumstances) in a day and discard it so easy, but in the process we can thrive by making small changes. American comedian Groucho Marx once said we have the power, and we do. Use what you have to overcome and live life to the



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fullest. "Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it." Make today a new beginning.

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6 Love Songs to Make You Cry

Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.



Love is one of those elements in life that is truly unexplainable. Once you're under its spell, there's no telling what you will do because it's captivating. What you once would have deemed as crazy and senseless, suddenly seems just another action of love. There are a few songs that sum up love and identify an instance or two of true love. Whether it's through heartbreak or true love, love can make you cry and so can these songs. Get out your Kleenex and get ready to experience six love songs that will make you cry.

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
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Roasted Rosemary Pork with Asparagus

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


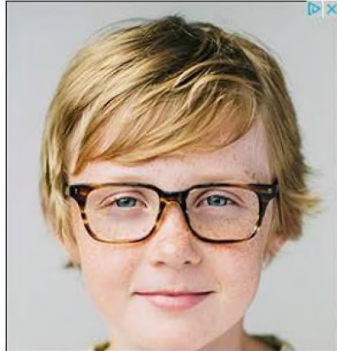
Ingredients

- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 4 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

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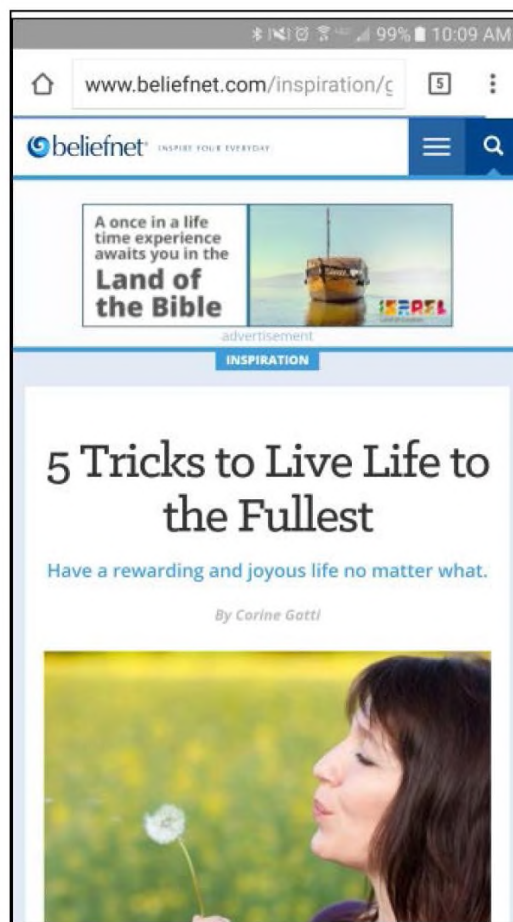
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religion, and it's a right protected by the constitution. Most of us have one since birth, of course. Our parents chose a religion for us, and we follow what they teach us until we are old enough to question them or convert into another for the sake of love. I am no exception. My parents chose one for me when I was born, and it's the one written on every identification I have. But however hard the world tries to bind me into one, I would always live with two.



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My mother is a Muslim. She never misses a prayer, and her faith to God is palpable. She used to read me stories of the prophets when I couldn't sleep, and although she's not terribly strict about modesty in her—or her daughters'—outfits, she makes sure nobody leaves the house with half their body on display.

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7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago is full of history, but here are the facts you didn't know!



7 Most Interesting Facts You Didn't Know About Chicago

Chicago was incorporated as a city in 1837 and is now the third most populous city in the United States. It's known for being a busy hub with something always going on. A true city that never sleeps! What a fun city to be in. Chicago is filled with a rich history of many famous inventors, notable celebrities, and prestigious Universities. What you might not know, however, are some of the other crazy fun facts about this city. There are some of them! Everyone knows that the deep dish pizza was invented here, but did you also know Chicago is home to the first successful open heart surgery? We didn't think so! Read through the 7 most interesting facts you didn't know about Chicago to see what this city is really all about. Then, share with your friends and see who knew the most facts in the list.

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Prayers for Travel When Visiting Loved Ones

Ease your mind with these prayers that are specified for travelers and their families.



Prayers for Travel When Visiting Loved Ones

Whether it be driving to work, visiting a loved one or going on vacation – traveling in general can cause people to become anxious and stressed. It's typical for people to ask for mercy and request their guardian angels to keep a watchful eye during their travels. Asking for protection is a common prayer when visiting loved ones because there are a lot of people traveling during peak times and most people feel vulnerable.

Ease your mind with these prayers that are specified for travelers and their families. Not only will travelers find comfort by communicating with God and their angels but they'll also discover an overwhelming sense of peace that embodies their existence during their time away with loved ones.

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

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
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



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Zuckerberg also presented the pope with his own drone, like the one the company is using to bring the internet to remote communities around the world. In a Facebook post, Zuckerberg explained,

Priscilla and I had the honor of meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican. We told him how much we admire his message of mercy and tenderness, and how he's found new ways to communicate with people of every faith around the world.

We also discussed the importance of connecting people, especially in parts of the world without internet access. We gave him a model of Aquila, our solar-powered aircraft that will beam internet connectivity to places that don't have it. And we shared our work with the Chan Zuckerberg initiative to help people around the world.


It was a meeting we'll never forget. You can feel his warmth and kindness, and how deeply he cares about helping people.

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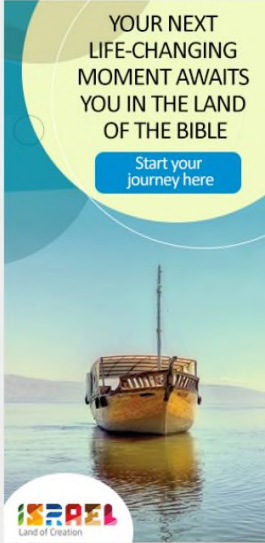
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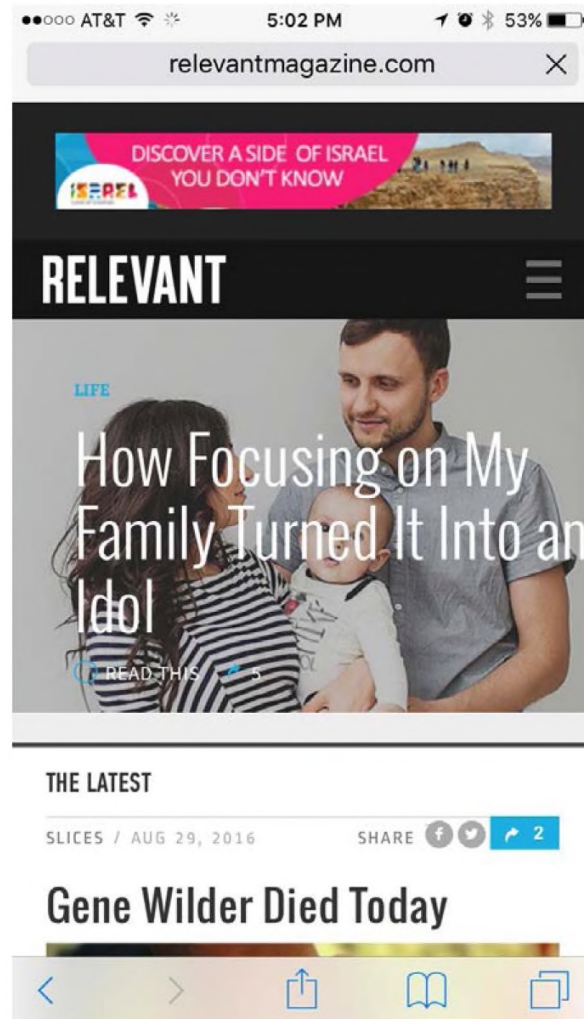
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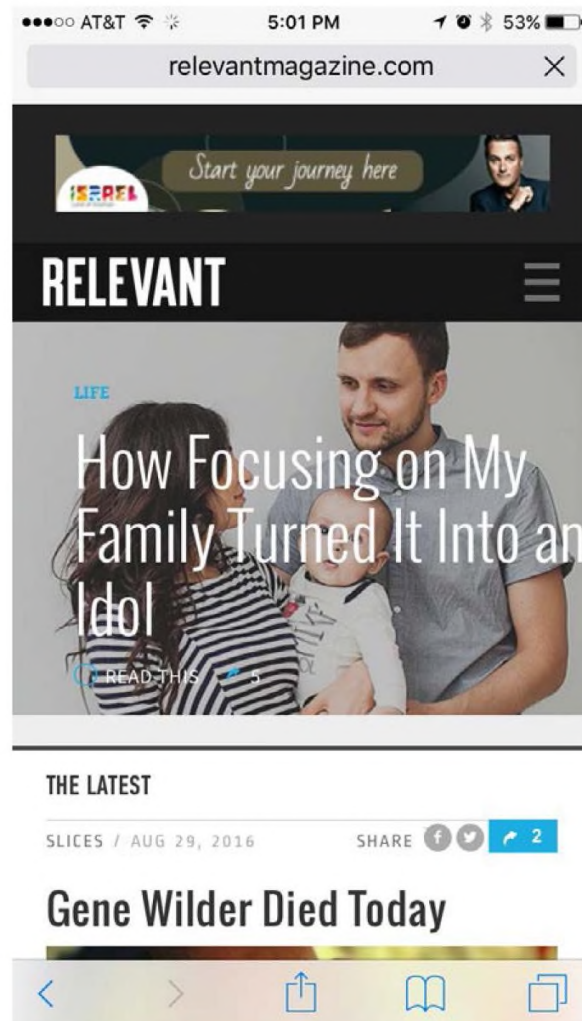


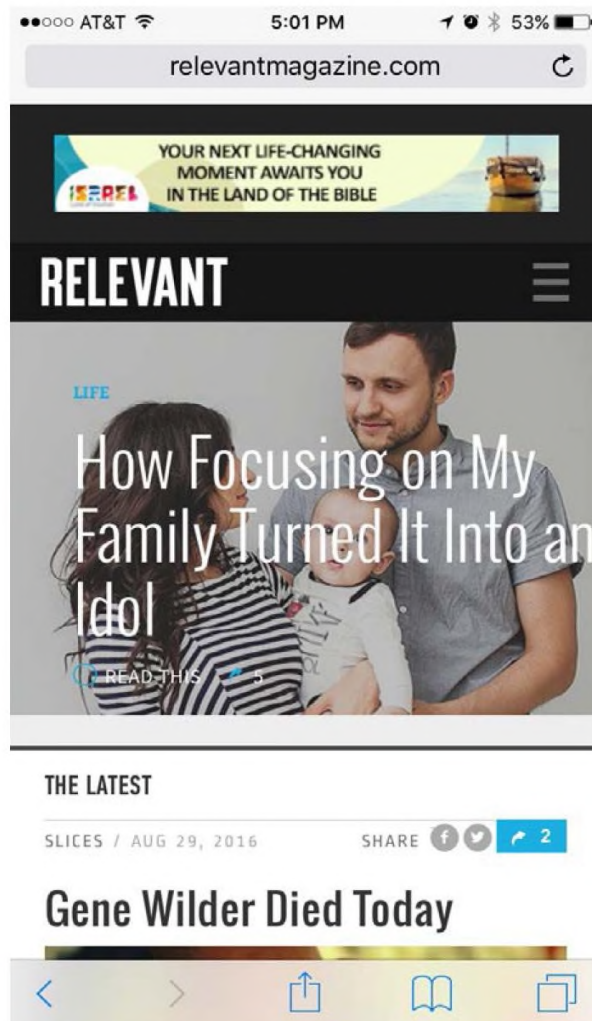
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Oscar-nominated actor and comedian Gene Wilder died today at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. According to a family member, he died of "complications from Alzheimer's disease." He was 83.

Wilder, of course, was a comedic genius who most famously—at least for Millennial-types—embodied the original, darkly eerie version of Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. He was also famous for his role in Mel Brooks's pioneering and biting comedy, *Blazing Saddles*. You probably remember him from *The Producers*, too.

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





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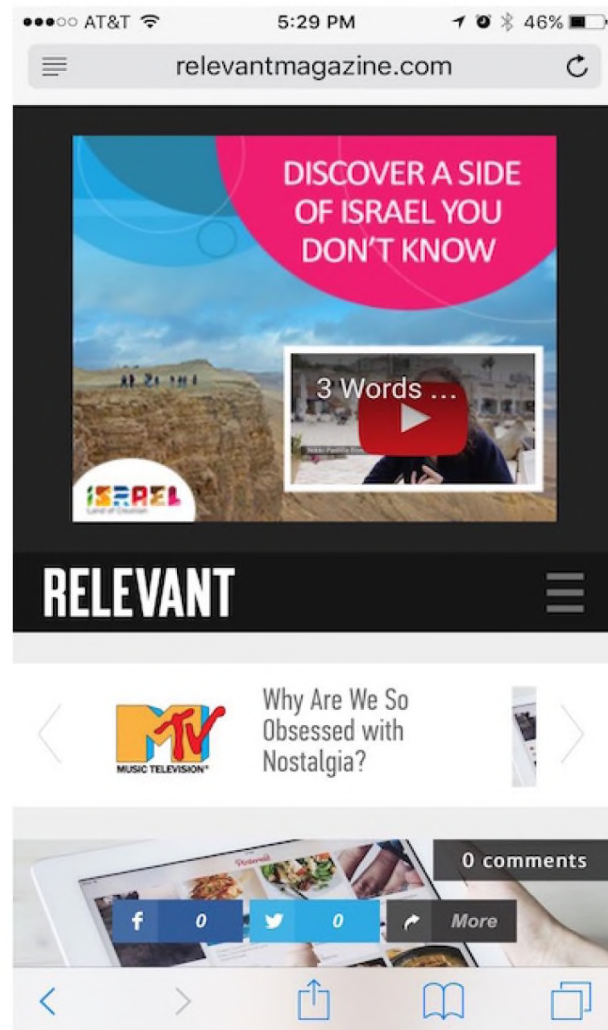
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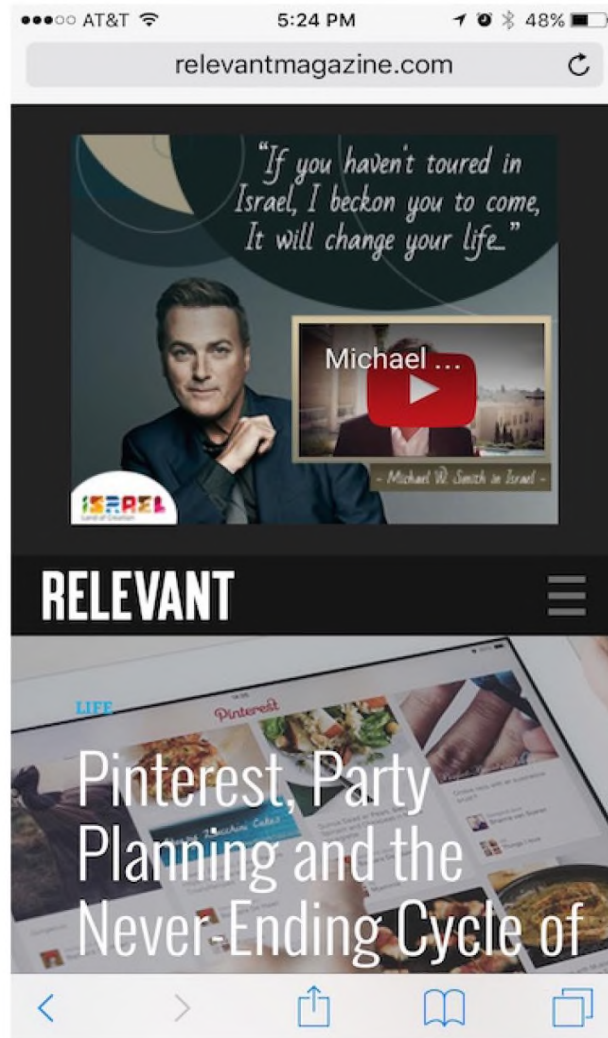
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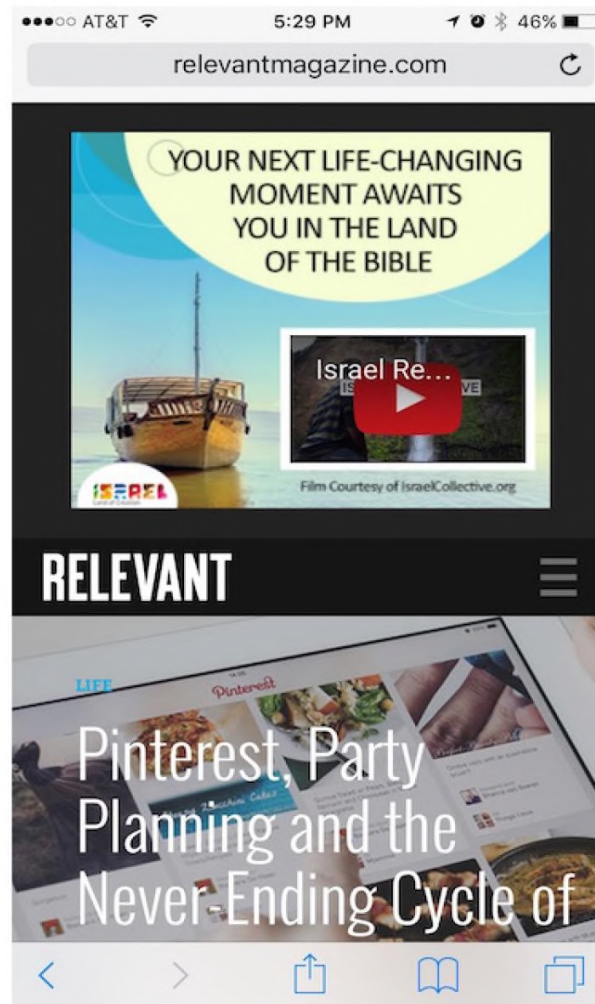


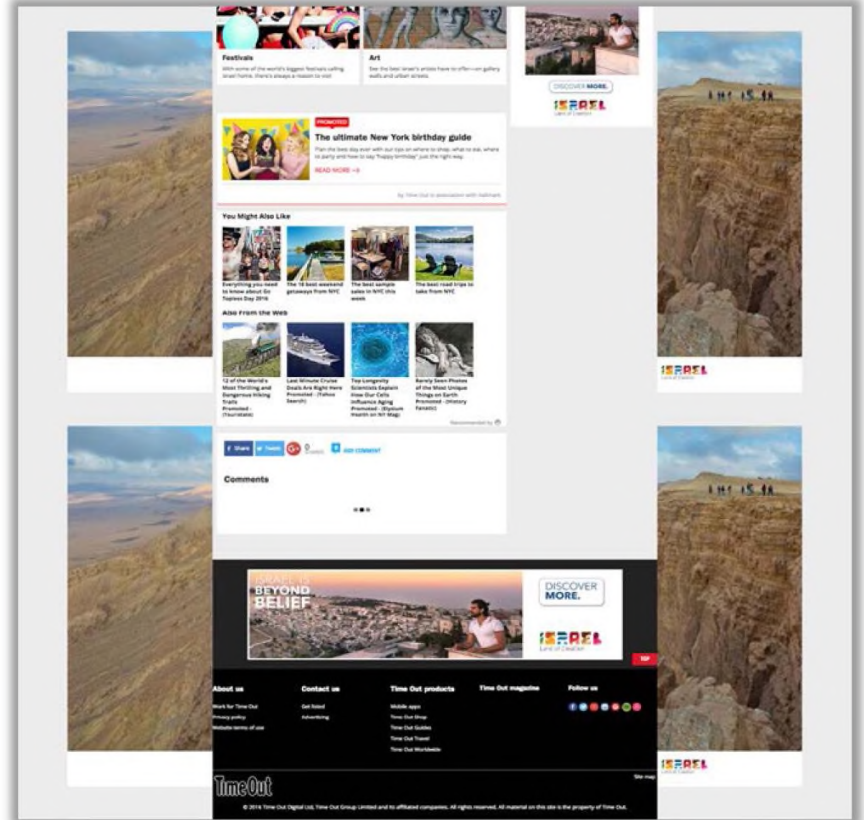
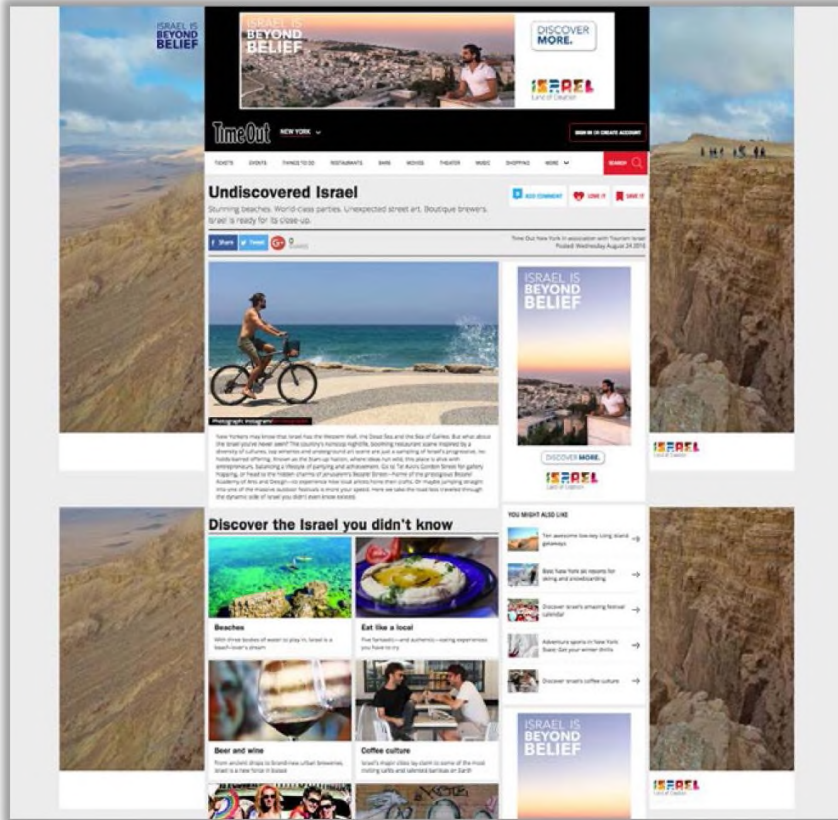
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By Abby Carney and Time Out contributors
Posted: Tuesday August 23 2016



Photograph: Jakob N. Layman

The ultimate way to enjoy a sacred day off of work is indubitably taking advantage of all the best Labor Day specials New York has to offer. It might be one of those hazy-origin holidays associated with backyard barbecues and clothing sales, but it's also one of your last chances to hit up a rooftop brunch NYC-style, scope out some of the **best new restaurants in NYC** or just mosey over Monday-funday drinks at the coolest **Lower East Side bars**. Then again, you could just lounge in pajamas all day, but then you'd be missing out on




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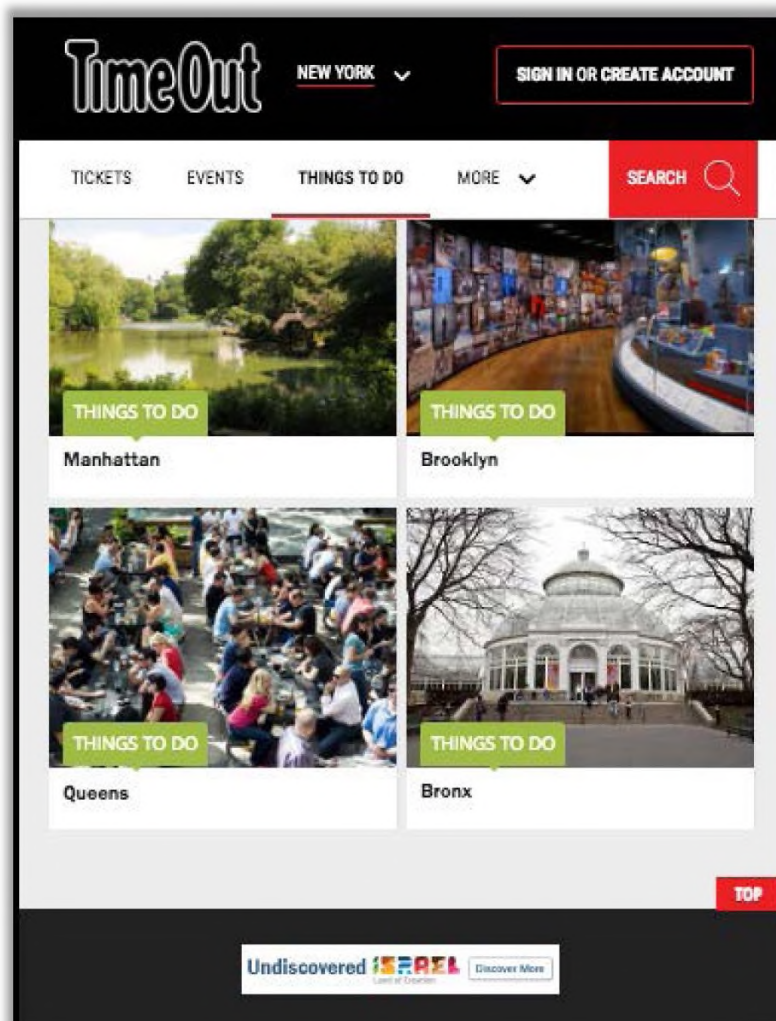
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By Tolly Wright
Posted: Monday July 18 2016




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The U.S. Open in New York

Get ready for all the tennis action you can handle at this year's U.S. Open—New York's most popular sporting event

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By Tazi Phillips, Time Out New York contributors and Jennifer Picht
 Posted: Tuesday August 23 2016




Photograph: Matthew Stockman
 Christina McHale seen playing in the US Open

In case you didn't know, the U.S. Open—New York's most-attended sporting event—is one of the most exciting [this to do in Queens](#). For two weeks, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park will be the tennis capital of the world during the legendary tournament. New Yorkers bring the party to the National Tennis Center with a celebrity-studded crowd (past famous attendees include Oprah, Alec Baldwin and Jimmy Fallon), while local [food trucks](#) bring the yummys, and live musicians performing on the grounds. Oh, and you can also check out the top pros in tennis. Whether you're heading to the courts during the day or for a match under the lights, check out how to score autographs from the likes of badass Serena Williams, catch the best action and hobnob with the VIPs. If you're inspired to play a set on your own, we've also collected the best [tennis courts](#) in the city to try out your one-handed backhand.

When is the U.S. Open?

The U.S. Open takes place in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens at the end of the summer from August 29 to September 11, 2016.




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The best things to do in NYC, including popular events, festivals, attractions and tours, free activities and entertainment. See upcoming events and what's on in New York today.



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York's best comedians and storytellers hilariously grapple with a wide array of fears onstage. Watch as Mara Wilson, Joe Firestone, Lyssa Mandel and Will Miles spin tales of what most frightens them. You'll feel comforted that your weird fears aren't that weird after all.


Housewives of Secaucus: A Suburban Tragedy Broadway Comedy Club; 10pm; \$20
 Join the demented ladies of New Jersey's classiest region as they throw drinks, pull hair and air grievances at a combination talent show/fashion show/fundraiser, all in the name of sisterhood and family.


LE1F + Ash Koosha Rough Trade NYC; 8pm; \$18
 Local indie-rap sensation LE1F has come a long way since going viral in the summer of 2012 with the video for "Wut." The impish MC's matured recent studio debut, *Riot Boi*, features his quicksilver vocal-fry flow over production from bubblegum hyper-pop duo Sophie and indie luminary Dev Hynes among others.

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Get the scoop on all the best summer music festivals happening this year

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THINGS TO DO

The best helicopter tours in NYC


Soak up exhilarating views of the city's stunning skyline by choosing the best helicopter tour NYC has to offer.



MUSEUMS

The six best reasons to visit the Museum of Sex


Check out NYC's raciest gallery for skin-tillating exhibits and a sexy store.



THINGS TO DO

The best places to go rock climbing in NYC

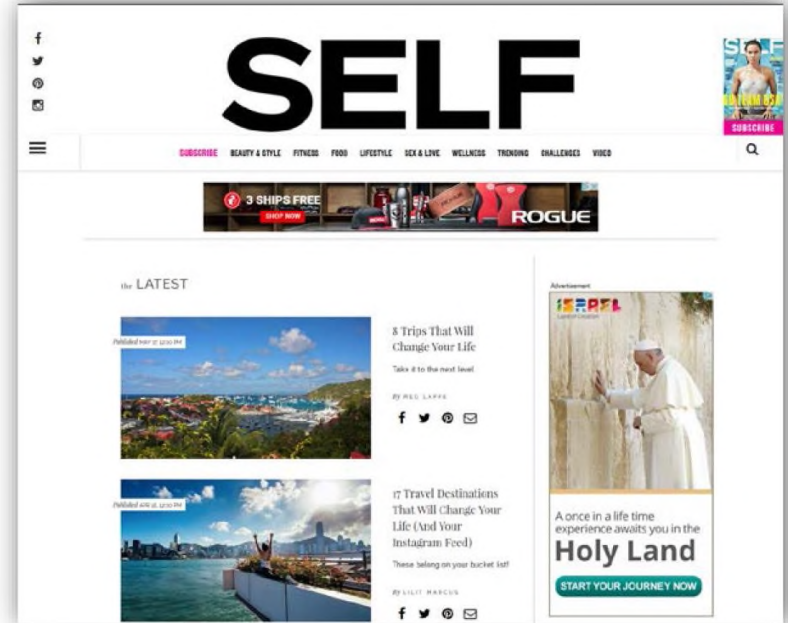
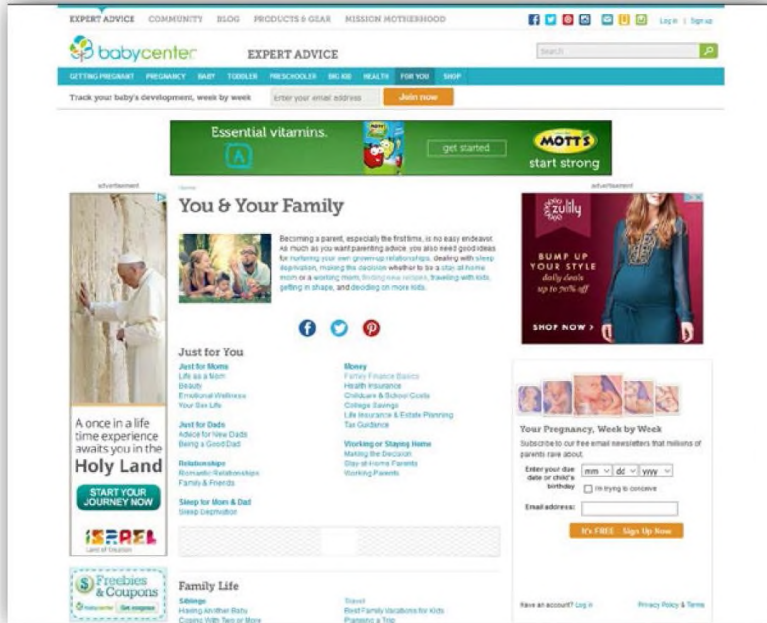
Get in shape and learn the ropes with the best outdoor and indoor rock climbing.

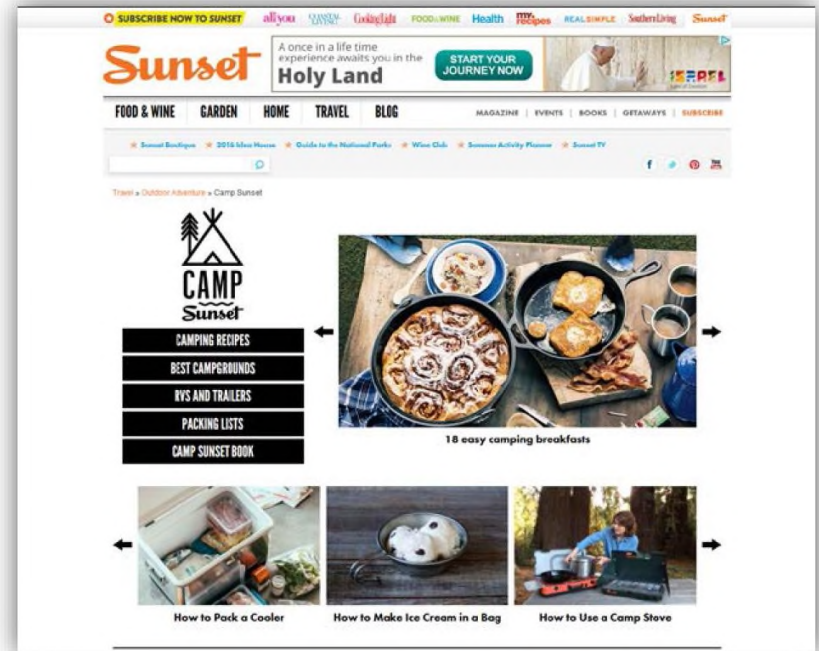
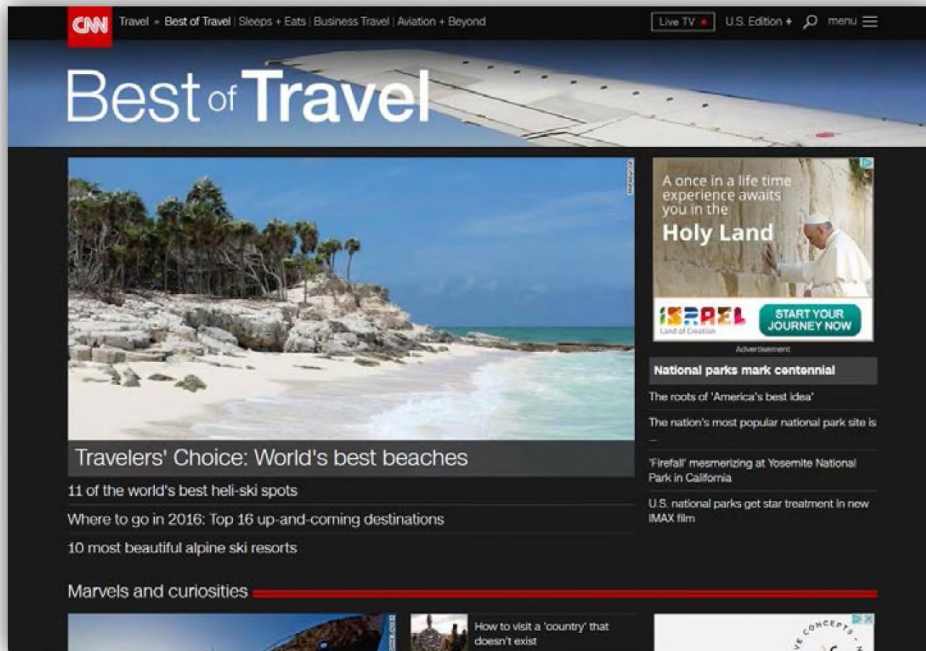


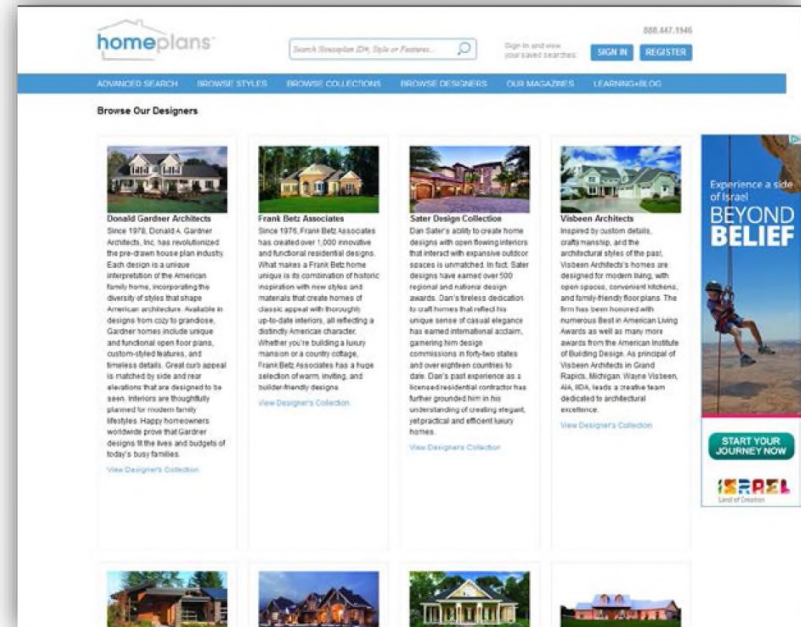
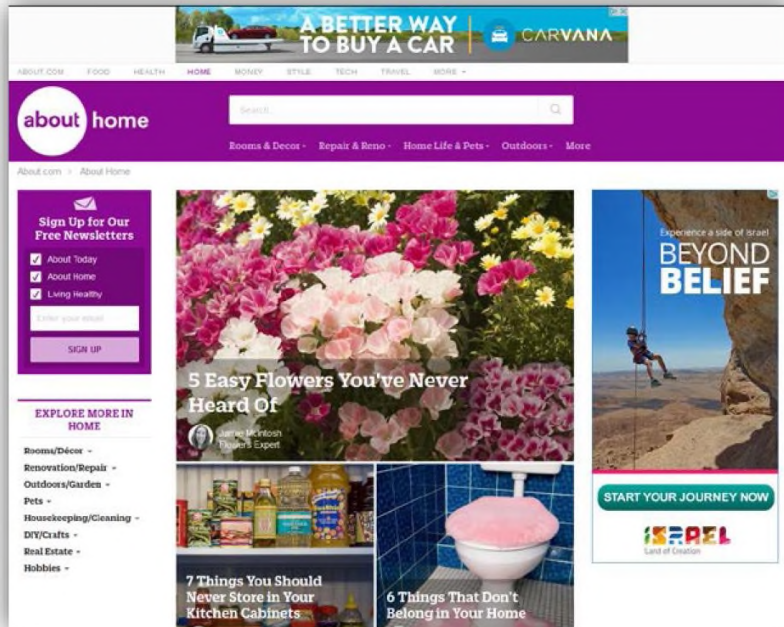
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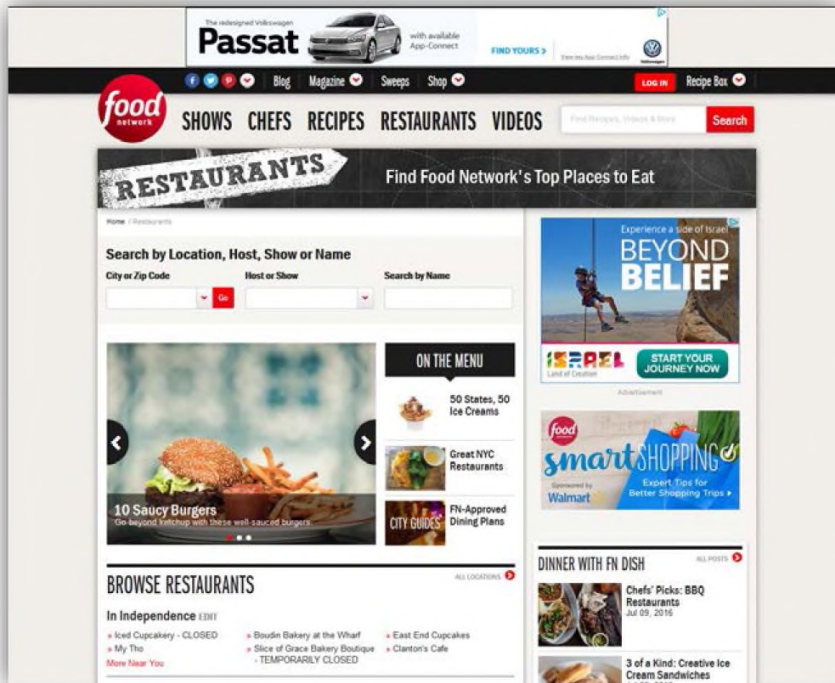
Discover Israel's beaches

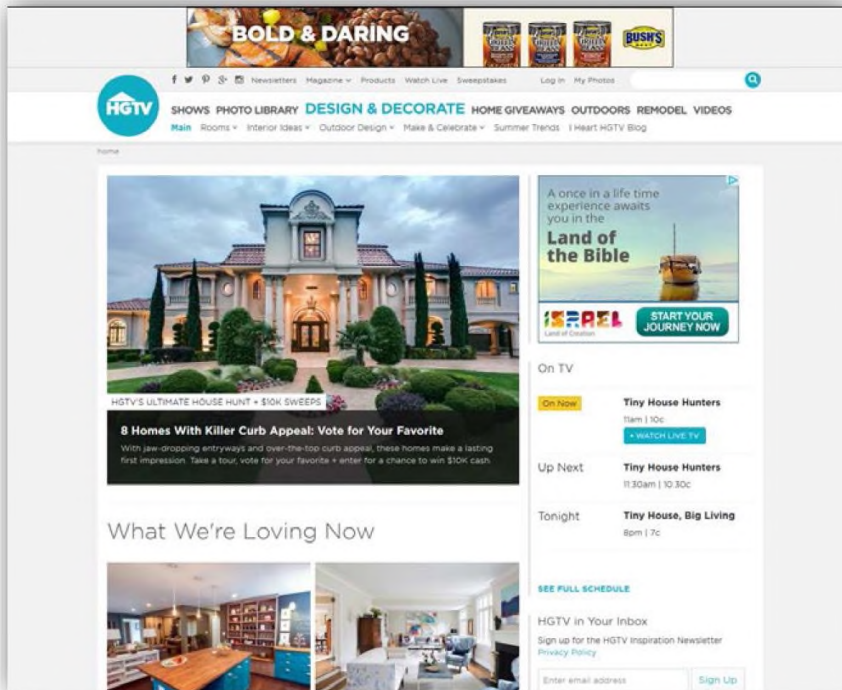
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Rachel Arthur, Contributor

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NBC	Local Programming 11:01 AM - 1:00 PM			
FOX	Local Programming 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM		Local Programming 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
PBS	Dinosaur Train 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Dinosaur Train 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Super WHY! 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Thomas & Friends 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
CW	Local Programming 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM		Local Programming 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	
MNT	Local Programming 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM			
ION	Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		Criminal Minds 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	
TELMUN	La casa de al lado 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM		La sombra de Helena 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM NEW	

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MÓVILES REDES SOCIALES BANCO DE PRUEBAS RETINA MERISTATION

El niño que se convirtió en el mejor piloto de drones del mundo

BEATRIZ GUILLEN | Zaragoza | 19

Luke Bannister, de 15 años, con las gafas con las que pilota su dron. **EXPOSICIÓN**

Luke Bannister, de 15 años, con las gafas con las que pilota su dron. **EXPOSICIÓN**

A vueltas con las ruedas de 'Curiosity'

JAVIER PEDREIRA 'WIKO' / MICROSERVICIOS | 18

A pesar de toda la sofisticada tecnología que lleva a bordo, las ruedas del 'rover' marciano de la NASA han llegado a ser la principal preocupación para la agencia

Snapchat, acusado de exponer a los niños a "contenido sexual explícito"

B.G.T. | 14

Una madre denuncia que a su hijo de 14 años le aparecieron publicaciones sexuales sin advertencia

Tus recuerdos de Snapchat dejarán de ser efímeros

ELIANA MARTÍNEZ VELÁSQUEZ

La aplicación de mensajería multimedia lanza Memories, una galería privada donde se almacenarán las imágenes y videos del usuario

TESLA MOTORS

CIBERCUBA NOTICIAS

Trending Última Hora Política Nacionales Deportes Arte y Cultura Turismo Educación y Sociedad Ciencia y Tecnología

El consumo de pastas no produce obesidad, este es un componente esencial de la dieta Mediterránea

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Por Lena Campos · Hace 9 horas

Un estudio realizado en Italia demuestra que a diferencia de la creencia popular el consumo de pastas no propicia la obesidad, por el contrario, se asocia a una disminución del índice de masa corporal (BMI, siglas en inglés). En los últimos años las pastas ganaron una mala reputación, se decía que producían obesidad. Esta afirmación hizo que muchas personas redujeran su consumo.

Hoy un estudio dirigido por el Departamento de Epidemiología I.R.C.C.S. Neuromed de Pozzilli en Italia, pone en su justo lugar a este importante elemento de la dieta Mediterránea. El estudio demuestra que las pastas realmente se asocian a una reducción de la probabilidad de que se produzca obesidad general o abdominal.

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El delantero del Minnesota marcó un hat trick ante los RailHawks y ya suma ocho goles en la NASL. "Es mi primer hat trick como futbolista profesional".

ARTHUR GUSAKOLA · 05/07/2016 · [ENLACE](#)

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Strikers avanzan y los NY Cosmos caen en la copa

Una experiencia única en la vida le espera en la **Tierra Santa**

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Eurocopa 2016

Alemania - Francia

Sigue el minuto a minuto del Alemania vs Francia, semifinal de la Eurocopa 2016.

- Cristiano ficha a Portugal a la final de la Eurocopa 2016
- Cristiano: "Siempre es mejor empezar mal y terminar bien"
- Nani: "Es algo extraordinario"
- Cristiano iguala a Platini como máximo goleador de Eurocopas
- El 1-1 de Portugal
- Incidente aborraz entre Cristiano y Bale
- Bale nunca se rindió
- El 1-1 de Gales

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ENTRETENIMIENTO Cine y TV MÚSICA Y LIBROS ARTE Y TEATRO GASTRONOMÍA

¿Cómo era el pasado acuífero de la avenida Jiménez de Bogotá?

'El río que corre', investigación de Jimena Montaña. trata la historia del afluente San Francisco.

Foto: MAURICIO LATOR / EL TIEMPO
Jimena Montaña C. en espera en desarrollo urbano, quincenta, contemporánea y editiva.

Por: CARLOS RESTREPO
© 8:05 p.m. 18 de julio de 2016

2 COMENTARIOS

Cuando los españoles llegaron a la sabana de Bogotá encontraron un gran espejo plateado, gracias a la riqueza acuifera de la zona, pero además, hermosos cultivos de maíz que, mientras se secaban, brillaban con el ocaso del sol.

Dos de los principales afluentes de la zona eran los ríos San Agustín y San Francisco, sobre los que se erige la ciudad, como lo cuenta la investigadora Jimena Montaña Cuéllar. Ella es la autora de 'El río que corre: una historia del río San Francisco y la Avenida Jiménez', que publicó con el apoyo de la Fundación de Amigos de Bogotá.

Narra Montaña que el río San Francisco se llamaba originalmente 'Vicachá', que en lengua muisca traduce 'resplandor de la noche'. En días de luna llena, la luz lo convertía en un gran hilo de plata que atravesaba la sabana.

ENTRADA
DECALABRO
LA ECONOMÍA Y LOS NEGOCIOS NO SE DETIENEN POR EL CALOR DE LA VERANO

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- 1 '¿Quién es Mahuma?', pregunta Brian May, de Queen
- 2 Por si no lo ha visto, este es el video oficial de 'La bicicleta'
- 3 Amazon Kindle abre un concurso en busca de escritores independientes

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AhoraMismo NOTICIAS DEPORTES ENTRETENIMIENTO

Entretención

Donde Comprar Fuegos Artificiales: ¿Qué Está en Venta Cerca de Usted en 2016?

Publicada 9:03 am EDT, julio 1, 2016 · Actualizada 9:58 am EDT, julio 1, 2016 · Comentarios: 1 · Ry Laurenmgia And Gay Document 110

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(Getty)

Los fuegos artificiales no son ilegales en todos los estados y están disponibles y se venden en muchos. Con el 4 de julio por llegar, podrías tener ganas encontrar un montón de fuegos artificiales para hacer estallar desde tu jardín. Siguiendo tenemos una lista de algunos de los lugares más grandes y mejores para comprar de fuegos artificiales por todo el país.

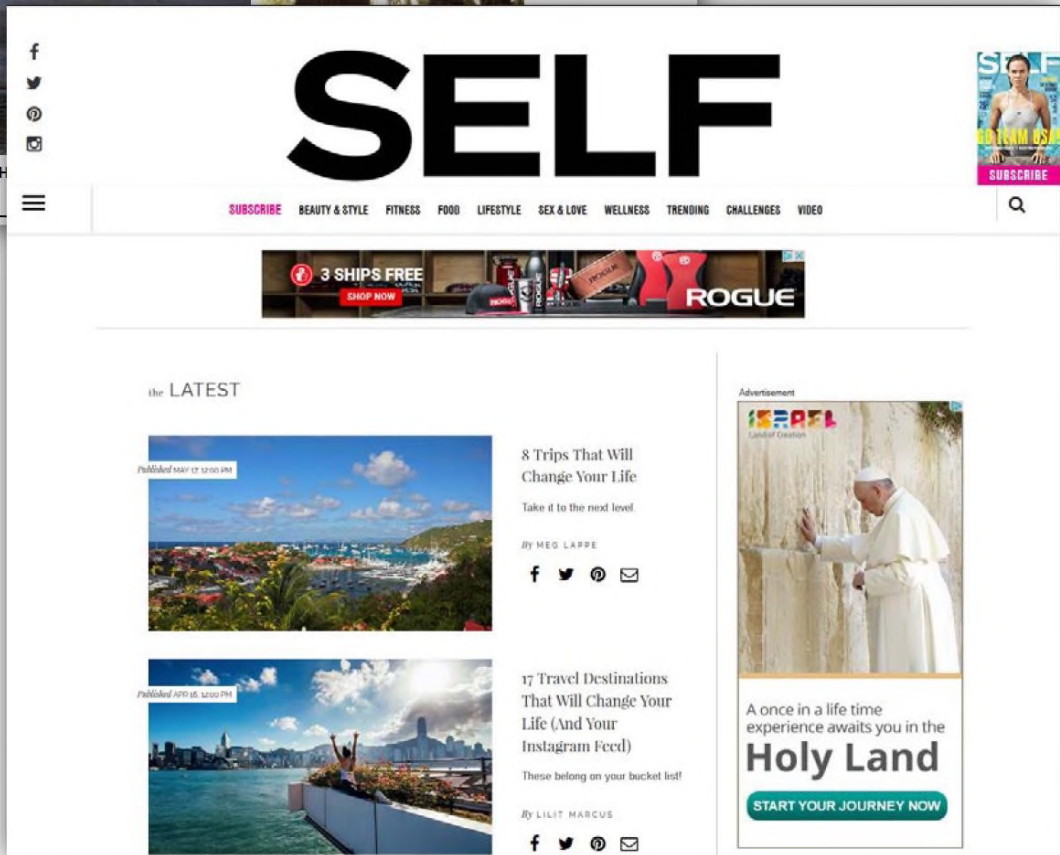
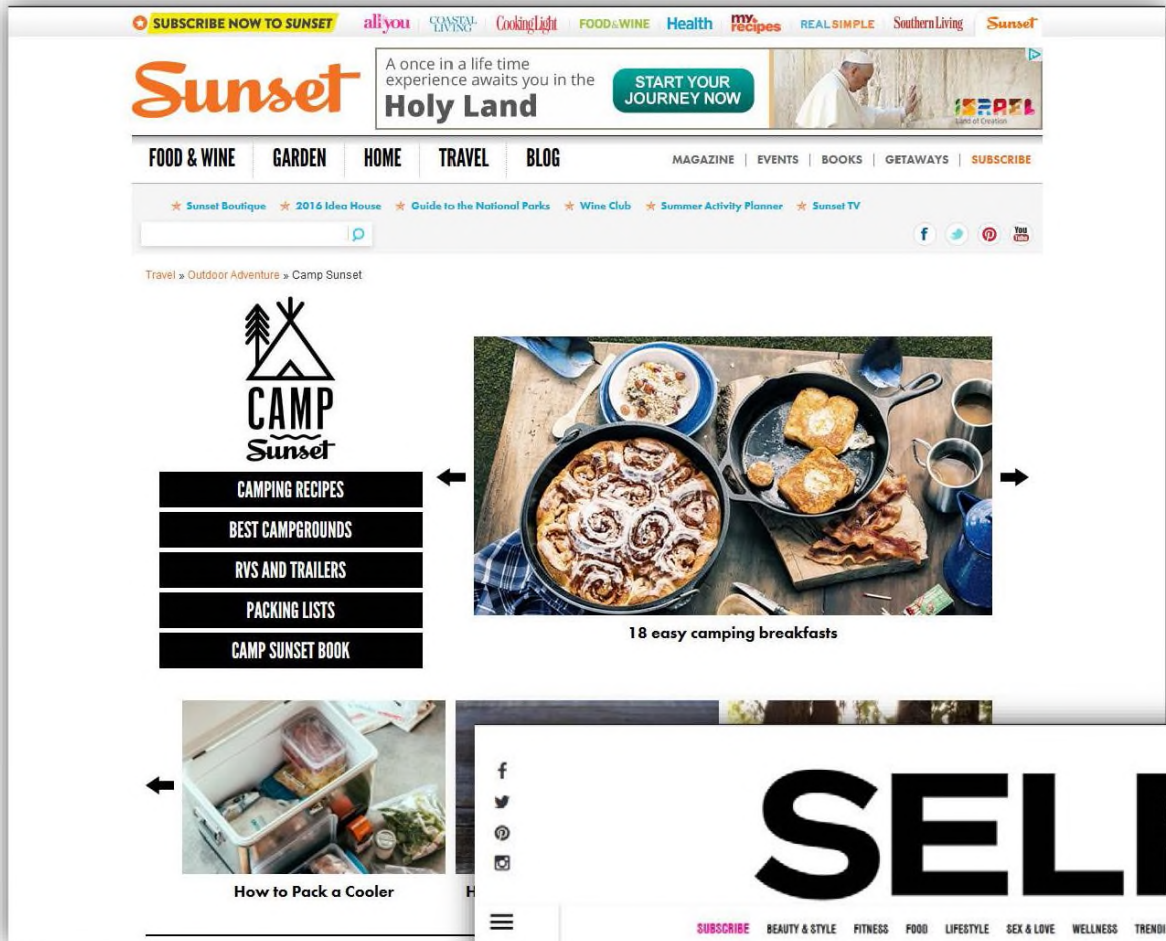
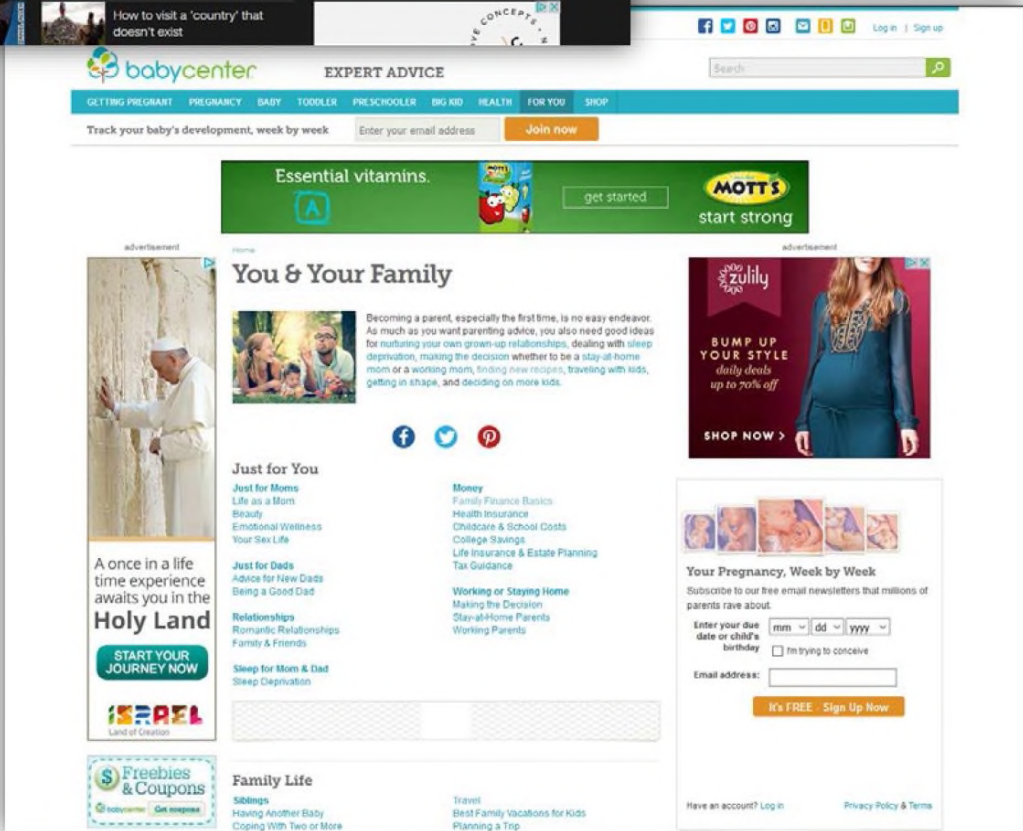
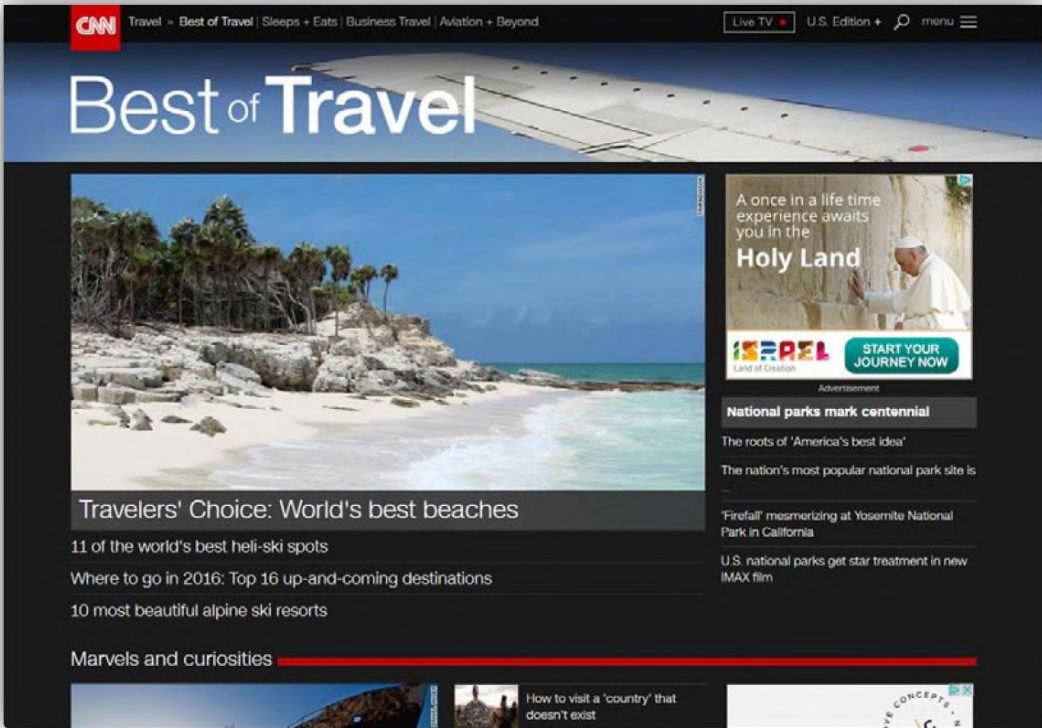
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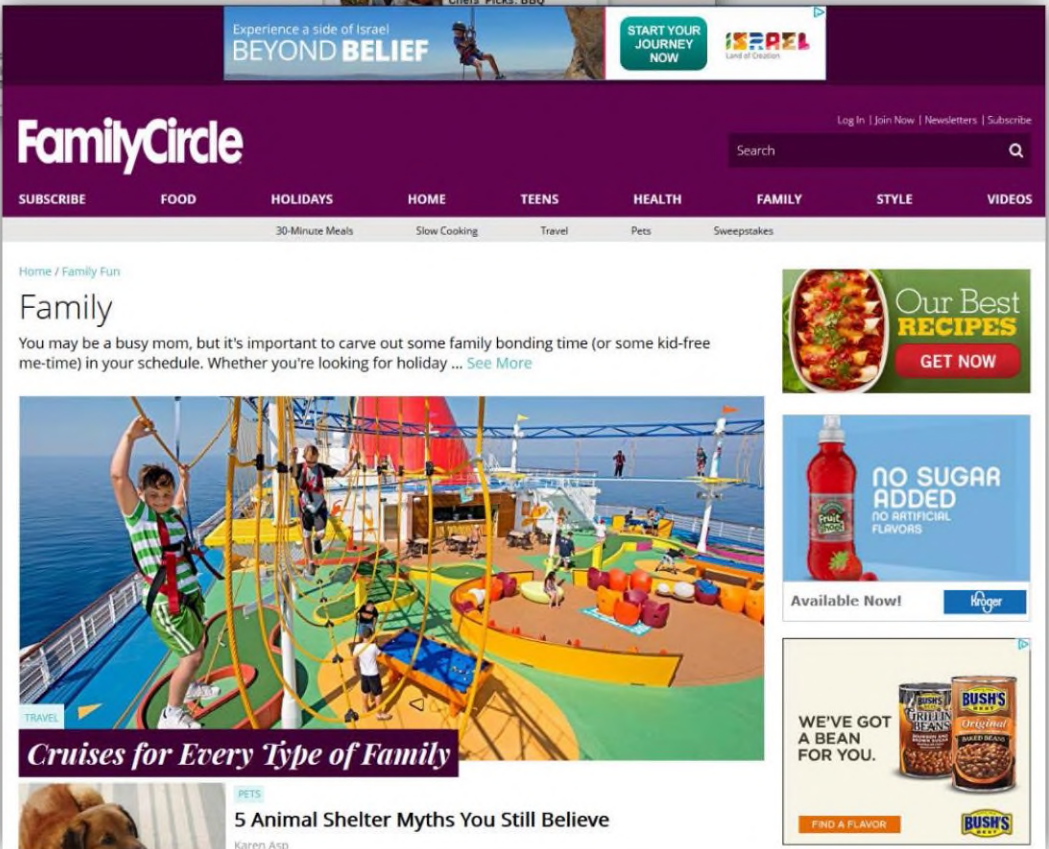
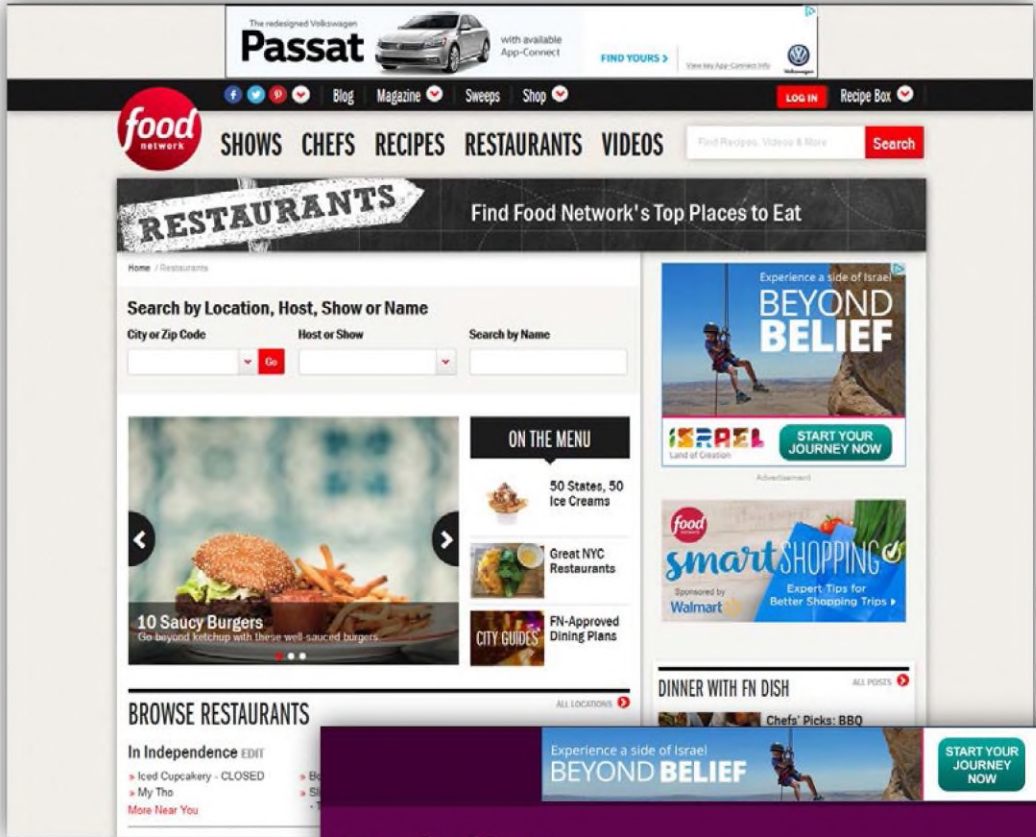
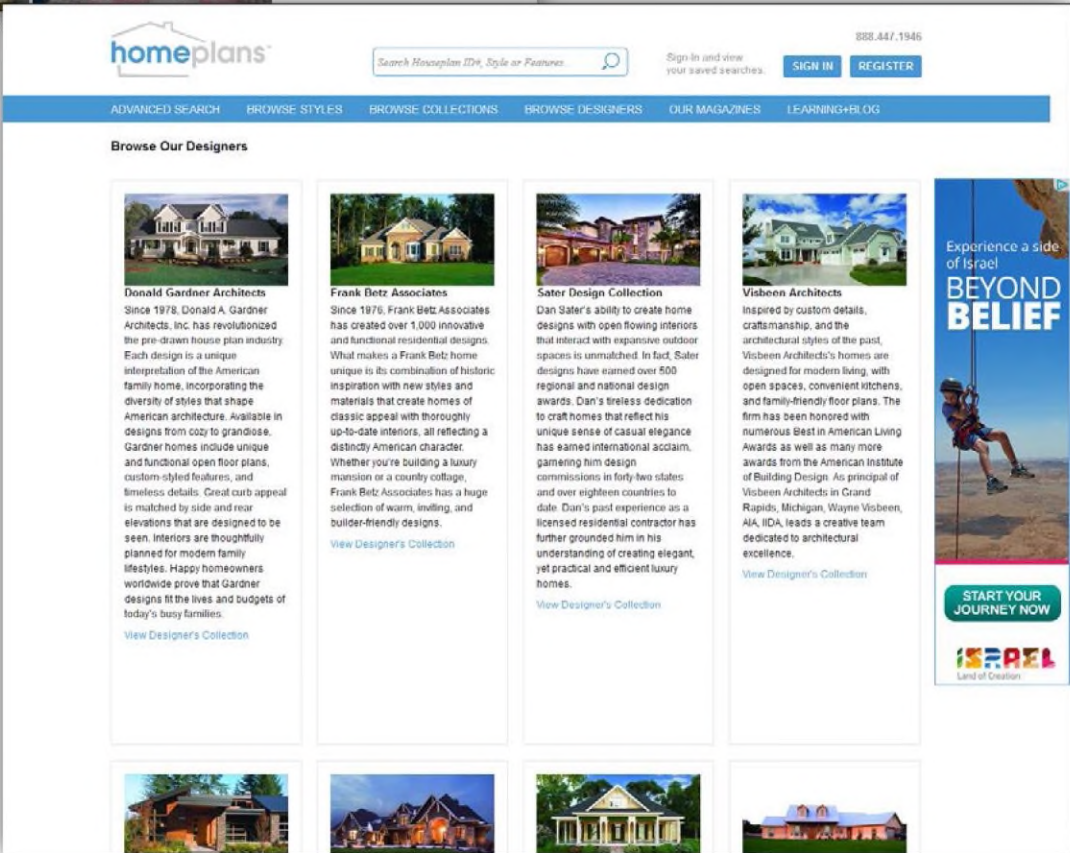
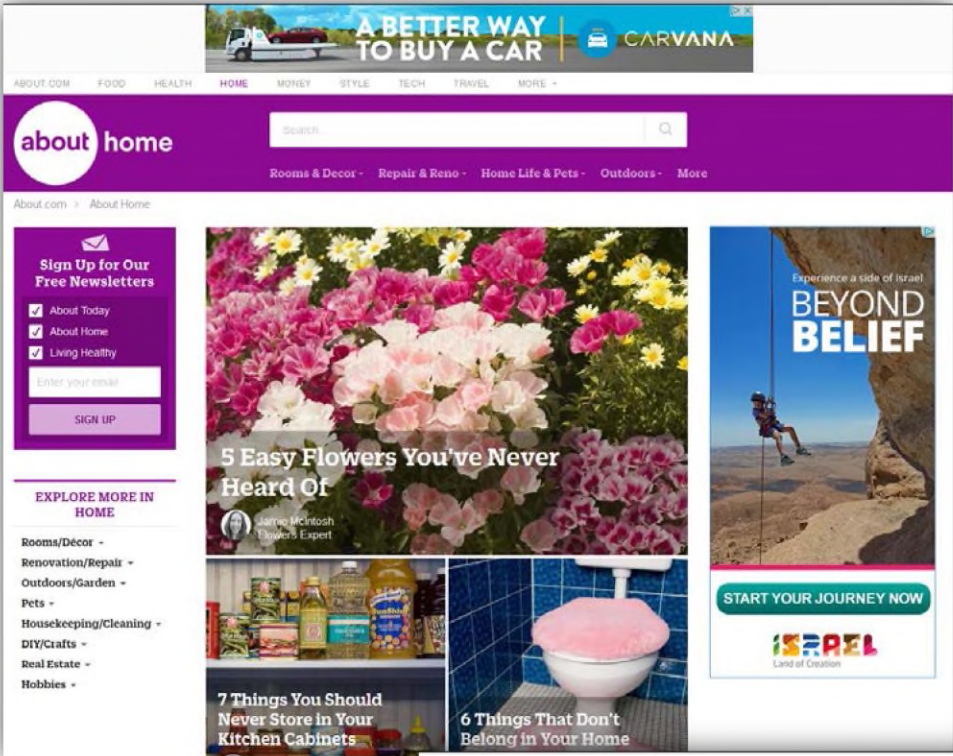
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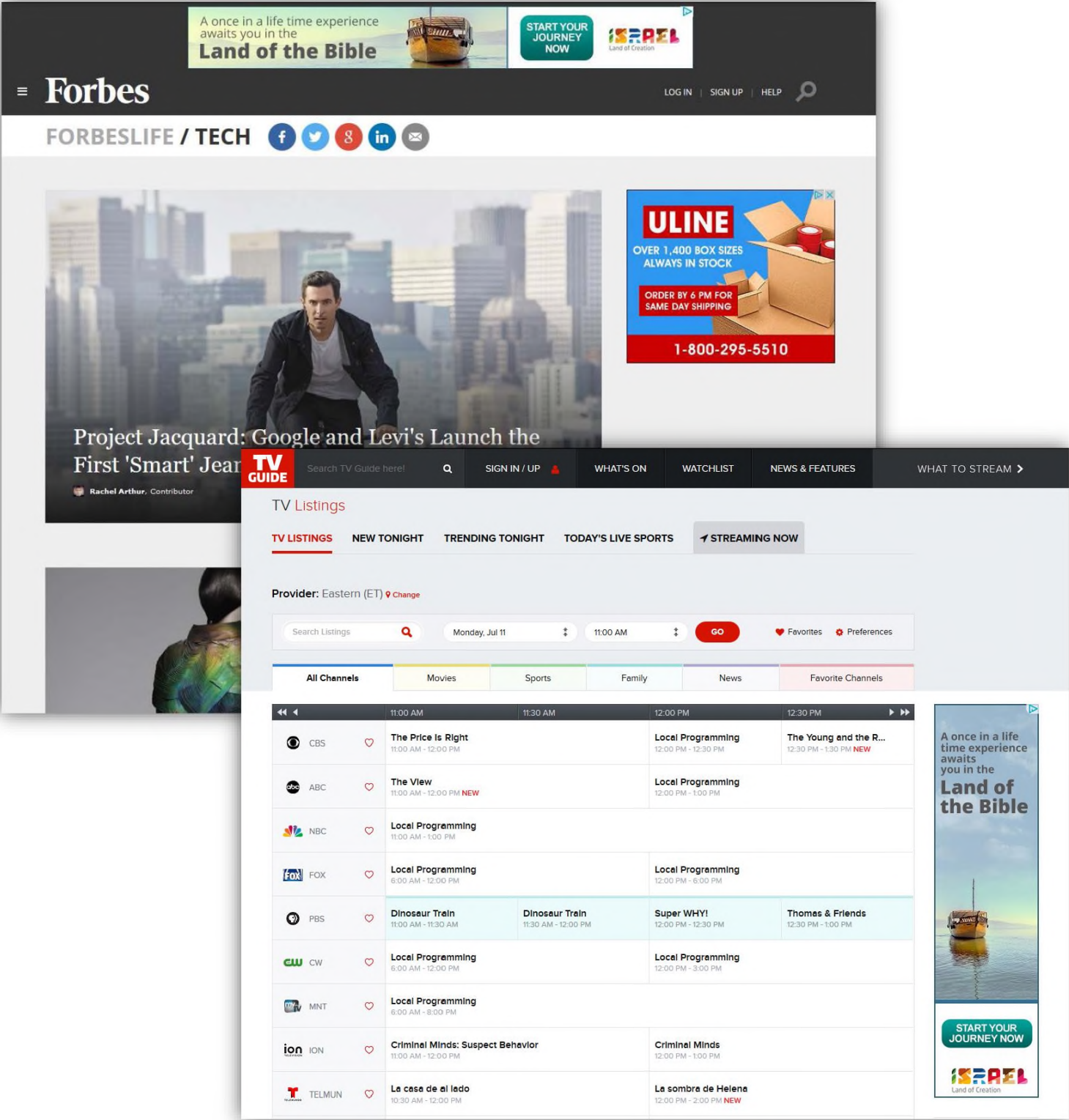
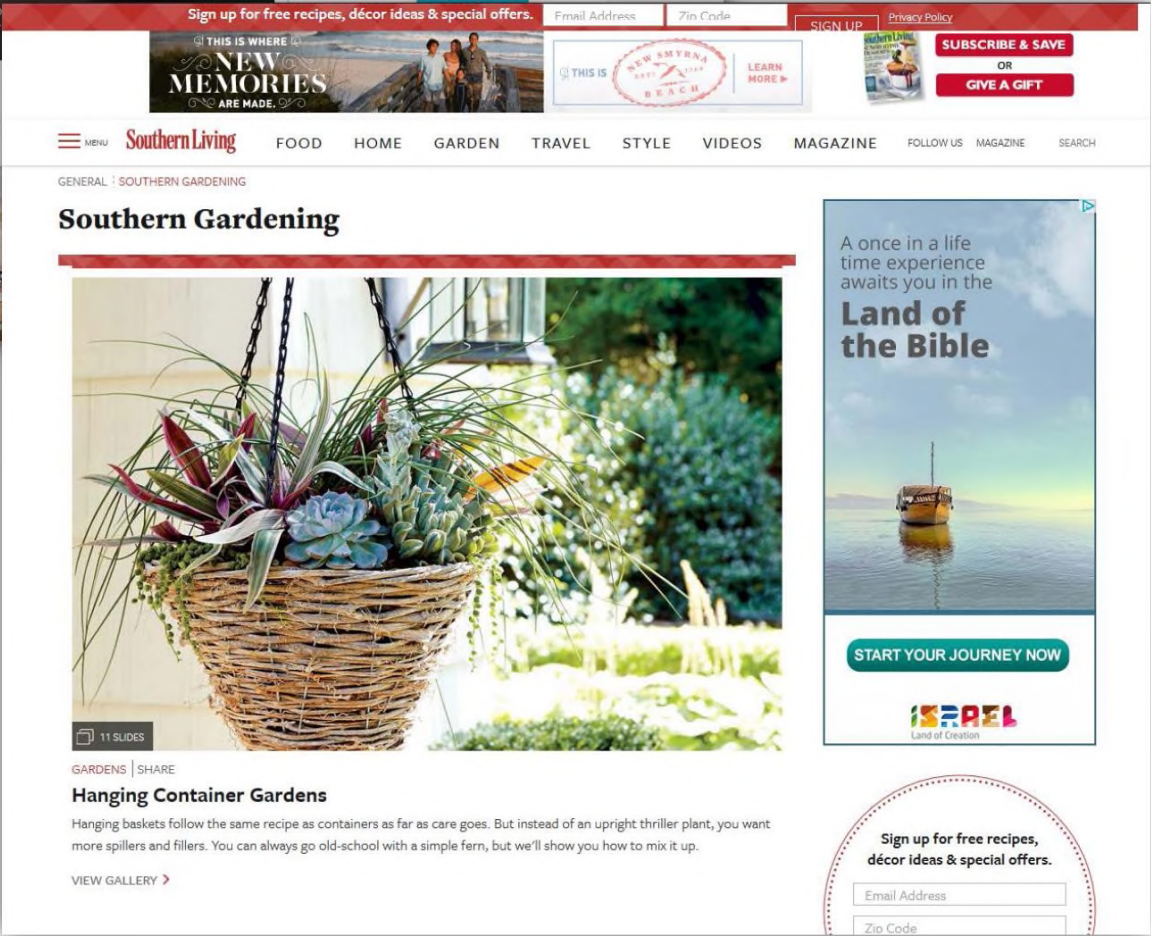
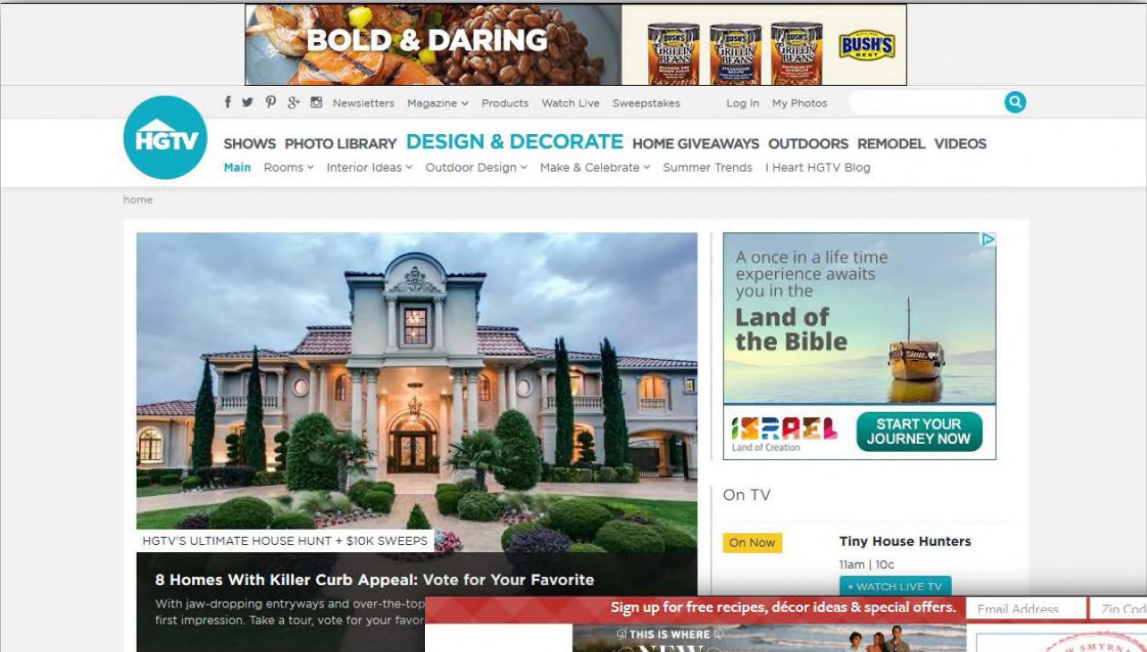
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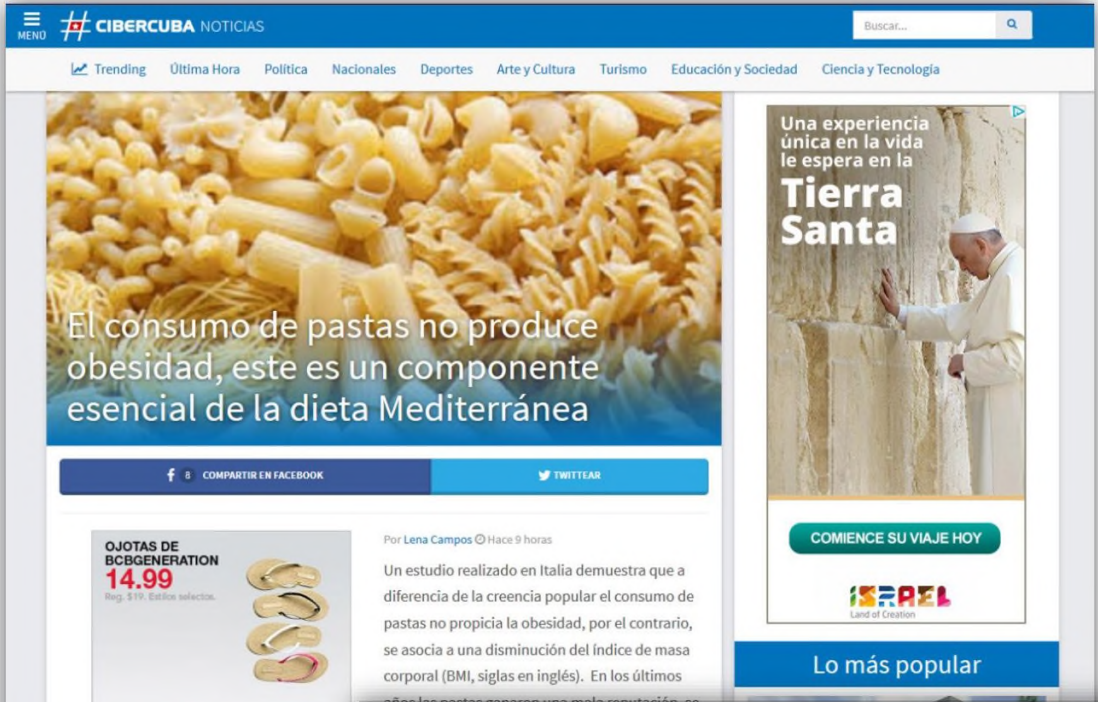
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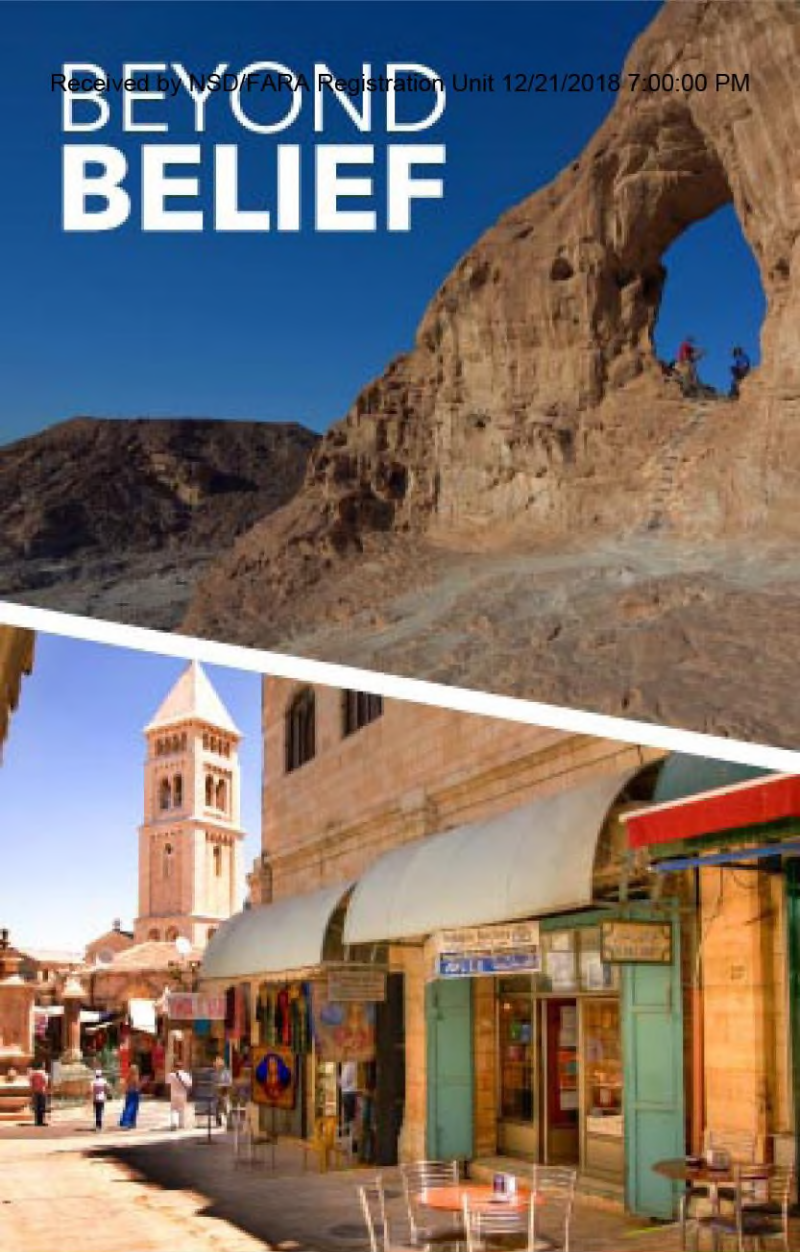


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These NYC buildings—from the Flatiron to 4 World Trade Center—will have you falling in love with the city



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Can't get into Shakespeare in the Park? Here's a complete guide to other free outdoor theater you can...



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These vintage clothing stores have what you need, whether you're a fan of retro or just love one-of-a-kind...



BLOG

The five best free things to do in NYC this weekend

Cool down with Waterfight NYC or celebrate Harlem's rich history with an outdoor extravaganza



THEATER

The best Broadway tickets in NYC

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Things to do in New York



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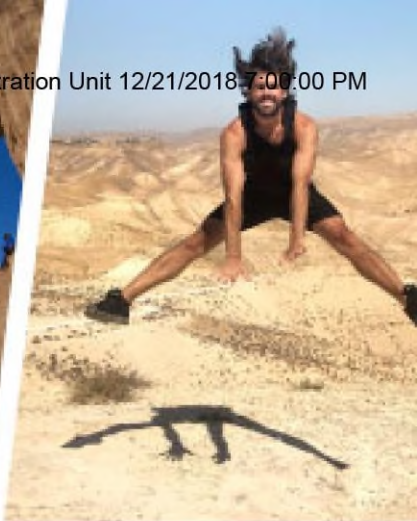
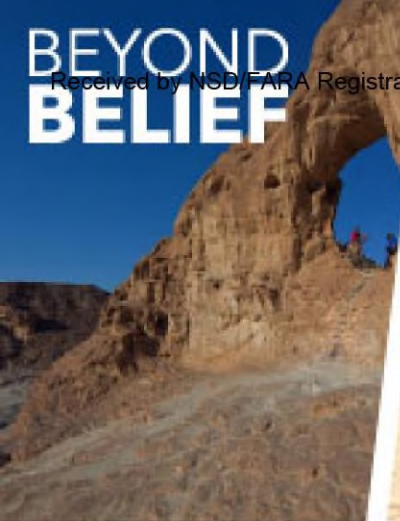
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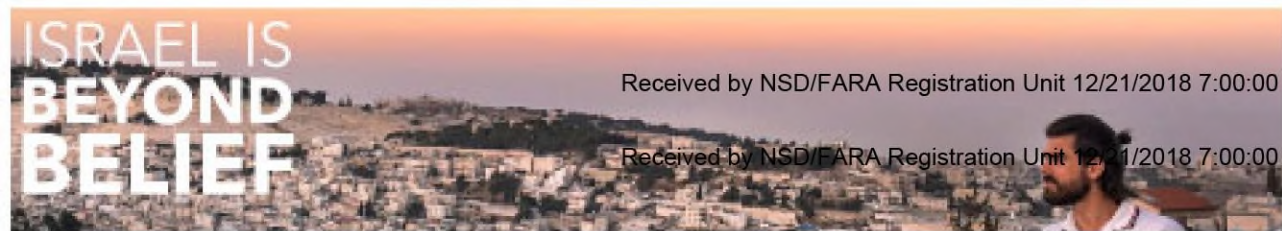


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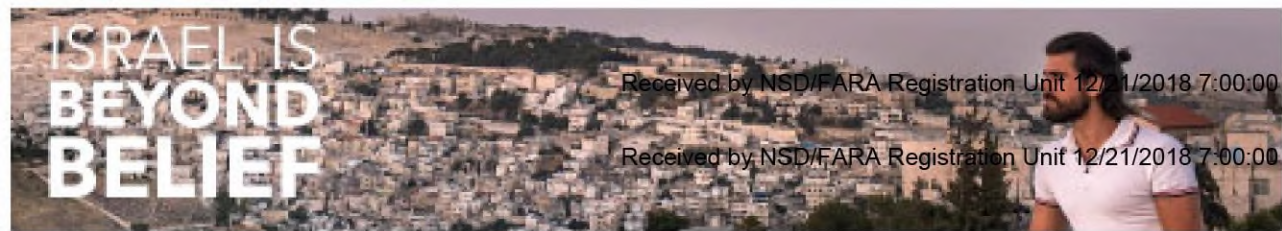


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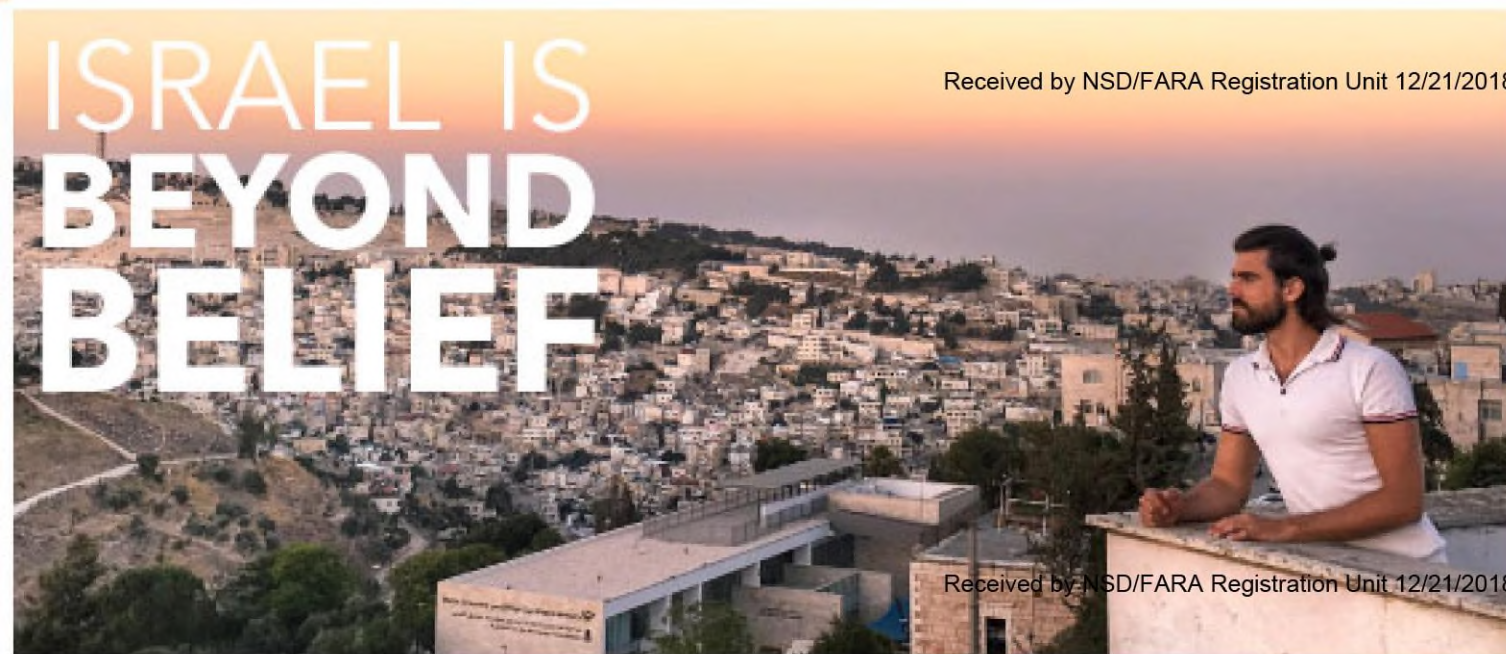
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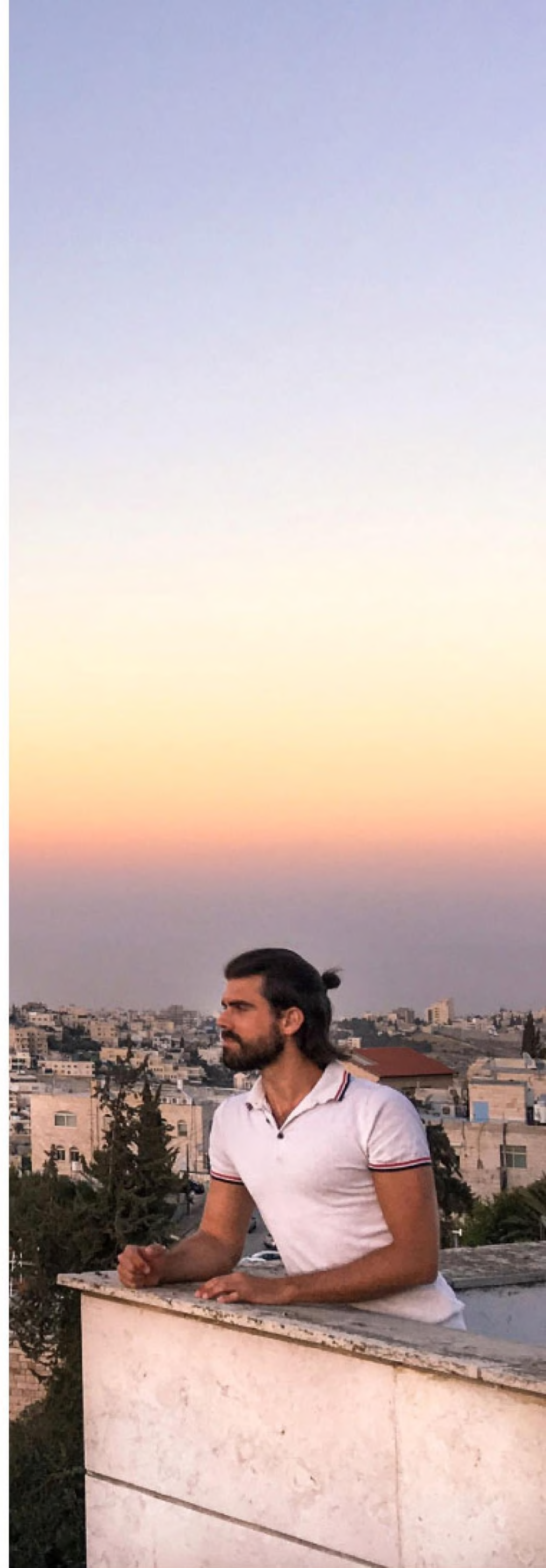
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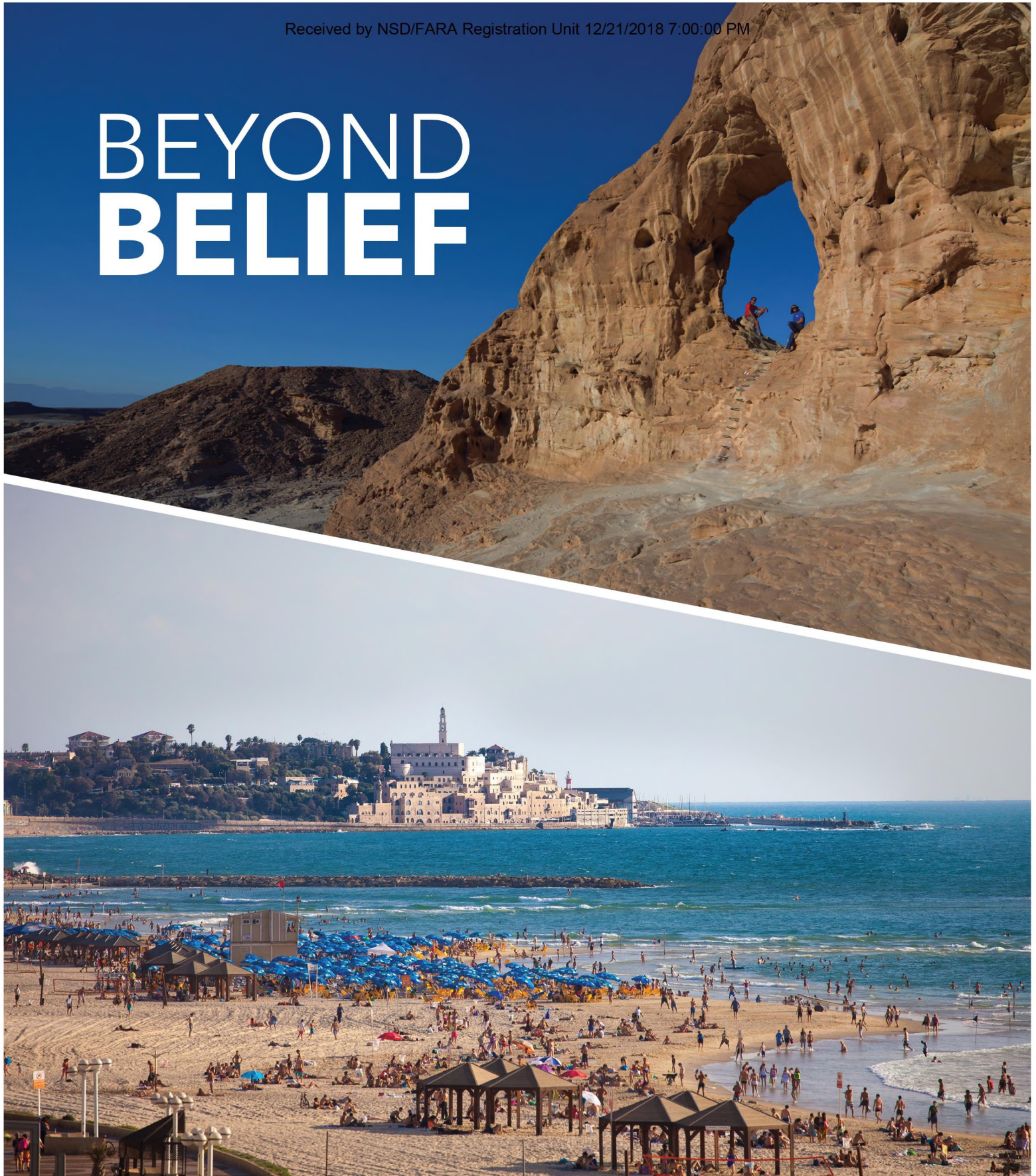


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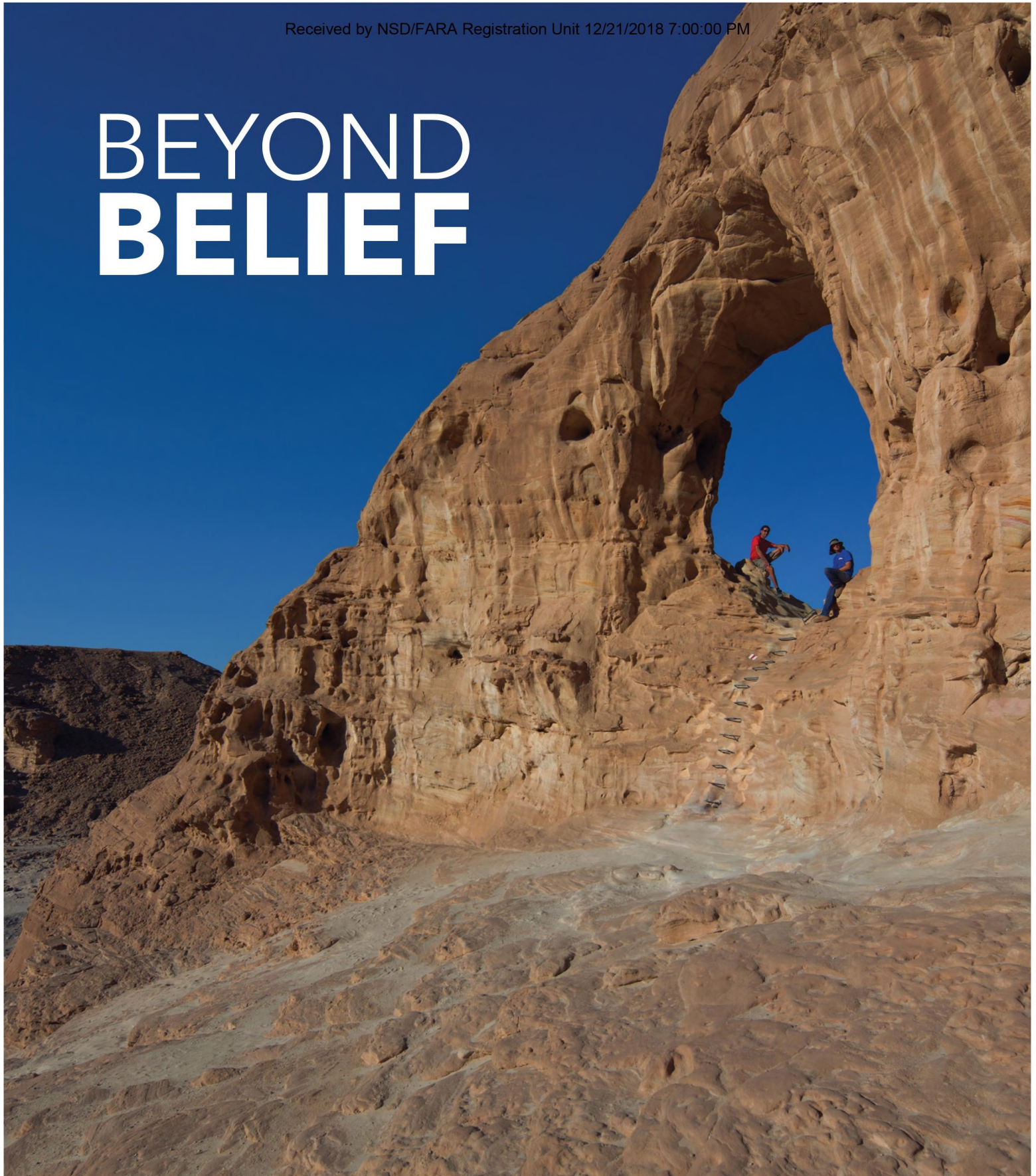
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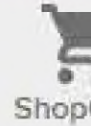
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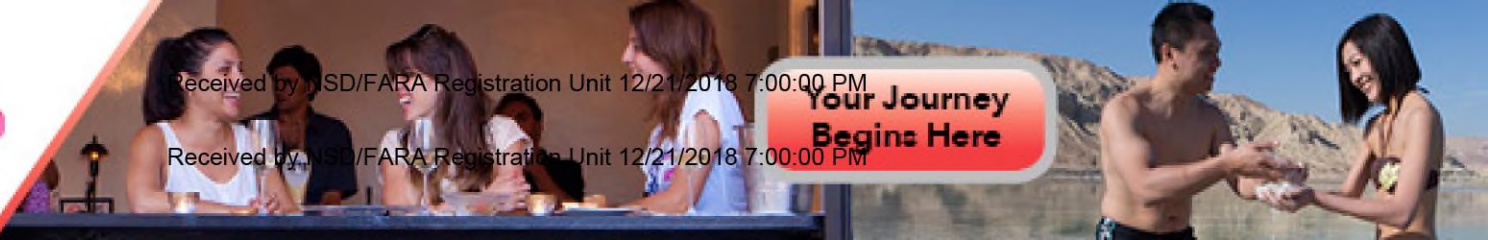
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The logo for Israel Land of Creation. The word "ISRAEL" is written in large, stylized letters. Each letter is composed of several overlapping geometric shapes in various colors: green, orange, blue, red, brown, and pink. The letters are set against a white background.

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A red, rounded rectangular button with a white border. The text "Your Journey Begins Here" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The button is positioned on the right side of the image, overlapping the background of ancient ruins.

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The Israel experience: closer than you think

To RaeAnn Slaybaugh

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The Israel Experience: Closer Than You Think

There's no question that Israel is an unparalleled destination for people of faith -- especially pastors, their families, and their church members.

What you might *not* realize is:

- Israel has never been a more popular destination than it is right now
- How simple it can be to plan a trip there
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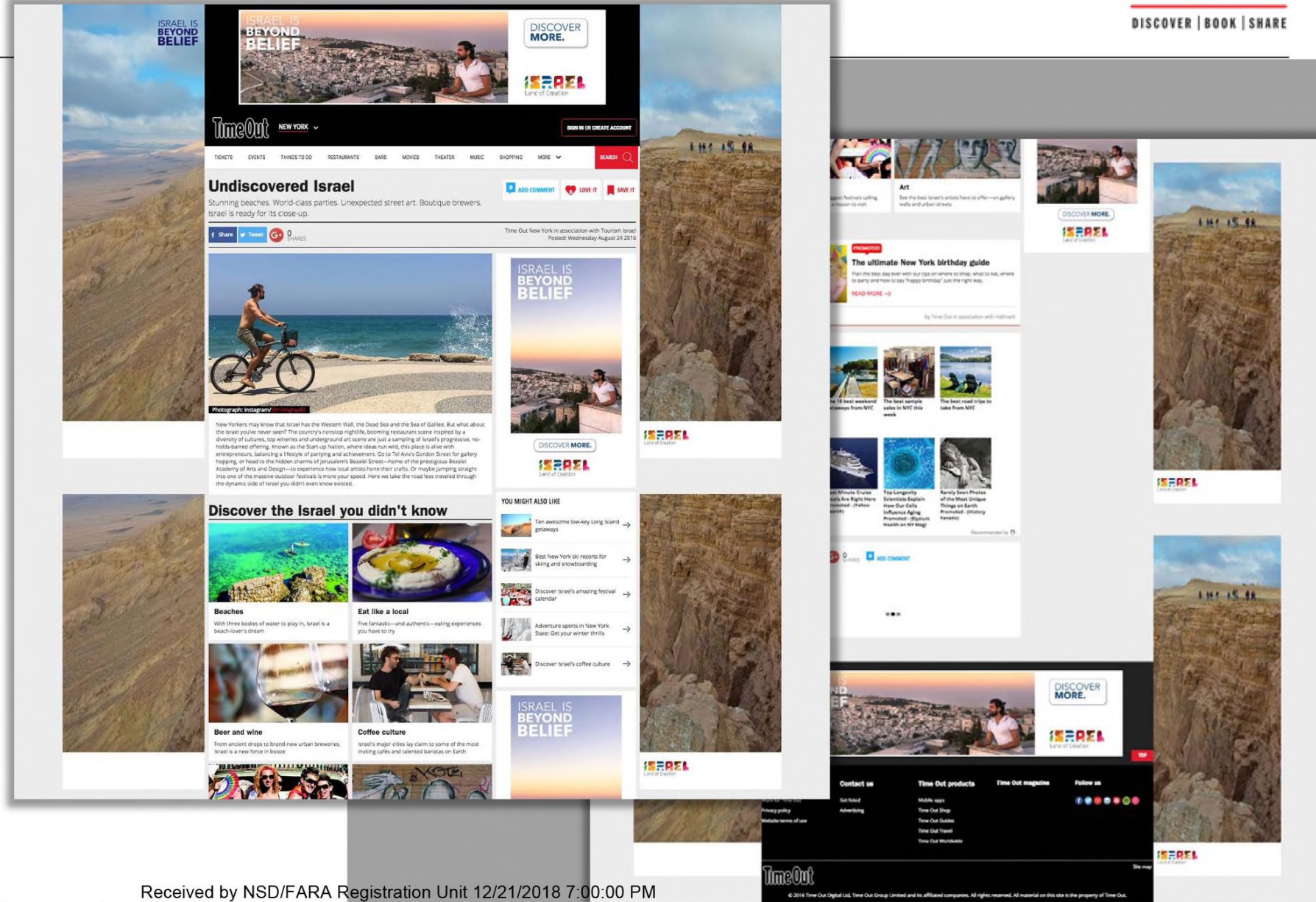
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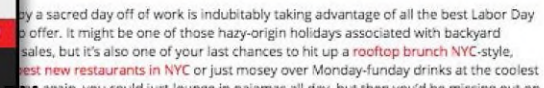
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TimeOut NEW YORK

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MY ACCOUNT



TRAVEL

The best places to visit in New York State

Escape from NYC and discover the best places to visit in New York State from Montauk to the Adirondacks



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MY ACCOUNT

York's best comedians and storytellers hilariously grapple with the city's quirks. Mara Wilson, Joe Firestone, Lyssa Mandel and Will Miles feel comforted that your weird fears aren't that weird at all.

Housewives of Secaucus: A Suburban Tragedy Broadway
Join the demented ladies of New Jersey's classiest regional grievances at a combination talent show/fashion show/family.

LE1F + Ash Koosha Rough Trade NYC; 8pm; \$18
Local indie-rap sensation LE1F has come a long way since going viral in the summer of 2012 with the video for "Wut." The impish MC's matured recent studio debut, *Riot Boi*, features his quicksilver vocal-fry flow over production from bubblegum hyper-pop duo Sophie and indie luminary Dev Hynes among others.



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Discover Israel's coffee culture

Israel's major cities lay claim to some of the most inviting cafés and talented baristas on Earth

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by Time Out in association with Israel Ministry of Tourism

MUSIC

The best summer music festivals in the US

Get the scoop on all the best summer music festivals happening this year

TRAVEL

The 13 best beaches in the USA

Our sun-lover's guide to the best beaches in the USA for surfing, snorkeling, family vacations and...

THINGS TO DO

The best national parks in the U.S.

The top American national parks for camping, exploring, kayaking and ogling this beautiful country of ours


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Discover Israel's amazing festival calendar

By Time Out in association with Israel Ministry of Tourism


MOVIES THEATER MUSIC SHOPPING ATTRACTIONS BLOG MORE SEARCH

MY ACCOUNT



in NYC this week

this week



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Click For Tickets

THINGS TO DO

The best helicopter tours in NYC

Soak up exhilarating views of the city's stunning skyline by choosing the best helicopter tour NYC has to offer

MUSEUMS

The six best reasons to visit the Museum of Sex

Check out NYC's raciest gallery for skin-tillating exhibits and a sexy store

THINGS TO DO

The best places to go rock climbing in NYC

Get in shape and learn the ropes with the best outdoor and indoor rock climbing

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The best places to go rock climbing in NYC

Get in shape and learn the ropes with the best

ADD COMMENT

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SEARCH

Things to Do

The best things to do in NYC, including popular events, festivals, attractions and tours, free activities and entertainment. See upcoming events and what's on in New York today.



BLOG

20 excellent things to do in NYC this week

Find the best concerts, variety shows and more things to do this week



Photo by Carlos G. Nieves

That fear of heights and test your strength? New York City and scenic running routes aren't adventure sports. Rock climbing, NYC has plenty of spots to climb in one of the many NYC parks, or if you have a harness.

Full guide to fitness classes and gyms in NYC

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SEARCH

The U.S. Open in New York

Get ready for all the tennis action you can handle at this year's U.S. Open—New York's most popular sporting event

ADD COMMENT

LOVE IT

SAVE IT

Share Tweet 4 SHARES

By Tazi Phillips, Time Out New York contributors and Jennifer Picht
Posted: Tuesday August 23 2016



Photograph: Matthew Stockman
Christina McHale seen playing in the US Open

In case you didn't know, the U.S. Open—New York's most-attended sporting event—is one of the most exciting [this to do in Queens](#). For two weeks, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park will be the tennis capital of the world during the legendary tournament. New Yorkers bring the party to the National Tennis Center with a celebrity-studded crowd (past famous attendees include Oprah, Alec Baldwin and Jimmy Fallon), while local [food trucks](#) bring the yummys, and live musicians performing on the grounds. Oh, and you can also check out the top pros in tennis. Whether you're heading to the courts during the day or for a match under the lights, check out how to score autographs from the likes of badass Serena Williams, catch the best action and hobnob with the VIPs. If you're inspired to play a set on your own, we've also collected the best [tennis courts](#) in the city to try out your one-handed backhand.

When is the U.S. Open?

The U.S. Open takes place in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens at the end of the summer from August 29 to September 11, 2016.



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MISSION STATEMENT

**Condé Nast Traveler is the
global citizen's bible and muse —
the most discerning, up-to-the-
minute voice in all things travel.**



Creativity Is...

Condé Nast Traveler is the global authority and most discerning voice in travel. Known for its award-winning storytelling through art-house photography and non-traditional travel writers, Condé Nast Traveler attracts the most affluent and influential consumers.

CNT Studio is the internal marketing agency that leverages the Condé Nast Traveler brand on behalf of its partners. Utilizing in-house talent and access to premier contributors, CNT Studio offers invaluable insight, guides consumer journeys, and produces engaging content that speaks to the traveler in all of us.

Case Studies:

- Alabama Tourism
- Arizona Office of Tourism
- Aruba Tourism Authority
- Aspen Tourism

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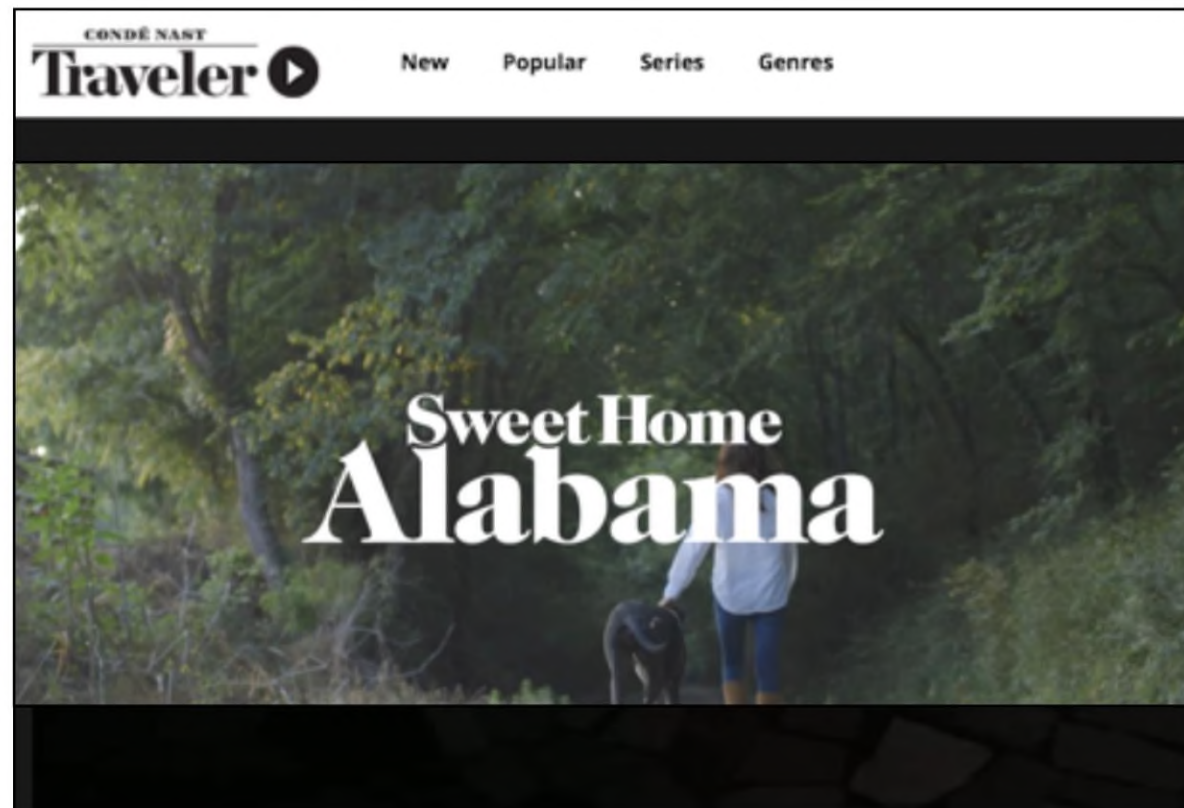
Aspen Tourism

Making Sweet Home Alabama

Alabama Tourism

2016 is the year of the Alabama Makers. These artisans, purveyors, and craftsman are inspiring travelers to rethink and rediscover the state and its rich offerings.

Alabama Tourism identified Condé Nast Traveler as the perfect partner for unique storytelling and superior content quality to develop and convey the brand messaging via a truly integrated program.



Makers Video Series

- Videos series featuring Alabama' "Makers" guiding users on an insider tour of their work.
- Videos will live on CNTraveler.com and promoted across our social network



Native Content

Custom native articles with high-impact digital units.



Print Advertorials

Custom advertorials in key issues including 8-page high impact die-cut insert in the June/July Summer issue.

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Alabama Tourism

Arizona Office of
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Aruba Tourism
Authority

Aspen Tourism

Let Yourself Go: Arizona Expedition

Arizona Office of Tourism

In 2015, Condé Nast Traveler, in collaboration with *Golf Digest* and *Bon Appetit*, created **Arizona Expedition: Let Yourself Go**, a first-of-its-kind, multi-platform effort designed to showcase the impressive regions, landscapes, and unique offerings that make Arizona so special.

Condé Nast Traveler leveraged our unparalleled network of influencers to secure two of our most engaged personalities, Chelsea Yamase and Zach Fackrell, to create a truly authentic campaign for Arizona Office of Tourism.



Custom Video Series and Digital Program

- 4x custom videos shot in Arizona, capturing the influencers on a 4-city tour of the state.
- Videos lived within hub at AZExpedition.com.



Print Advertorials

- 3x custom advertorials detailing each stage of the Arizona Expedition trip.



Promotional Events

- Launch event at the Conde Nast Gallery Space in One World Trade Center.
- Dinner with influencers at Chicago restaurant

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Shorties Film Festival

Aruba Tourism Authority

From April 4-May 13, 2016, Condé Nast Traveler hosted our 2nd Annual Shorties Film Festival, inviting our audience to share their favorite travel videos—under 60 seconds. With over 2,500 submissions, users uploaded their diverse experiences in one of five categories: Exploration, Firsts, Flavor, Happiness, and Love,.

Condé Nast Traveler created a robust sponsorship package for Aruba Tourism Authority, aligning their “One Happy Island” brand messaging with our signature Shorties Film Festival program.



Happiness Category Sponsorship

As the sponsor of the Happiness category, Aruba Tourism Authority received 100% SOV on all Shorties editorial content and logo placement on the Shorties Hub.



Video Winner Reveal



Invitation



Event Photos

Shorties Event

In June 2016, Condé Nast Traveler hosted the Shorties event at the newly unveiled Cadillac House in New York City.

- Attendees included 215 VIP guests, including NYC Influencers, celebrities and friends of Condé Nast Traveler

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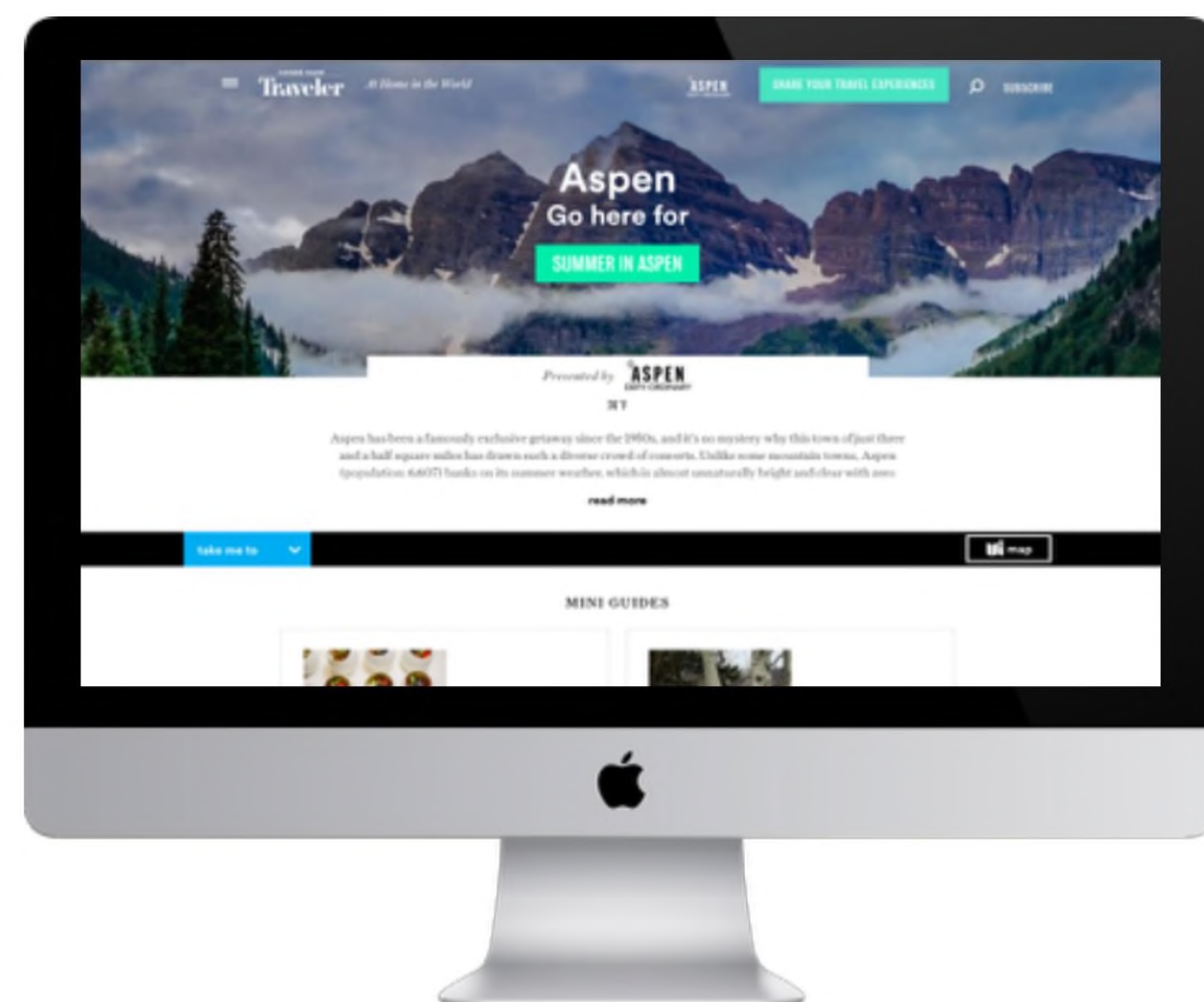
Aspen Tourism

Destination: Aspen

Aspen Chamber Resort Association

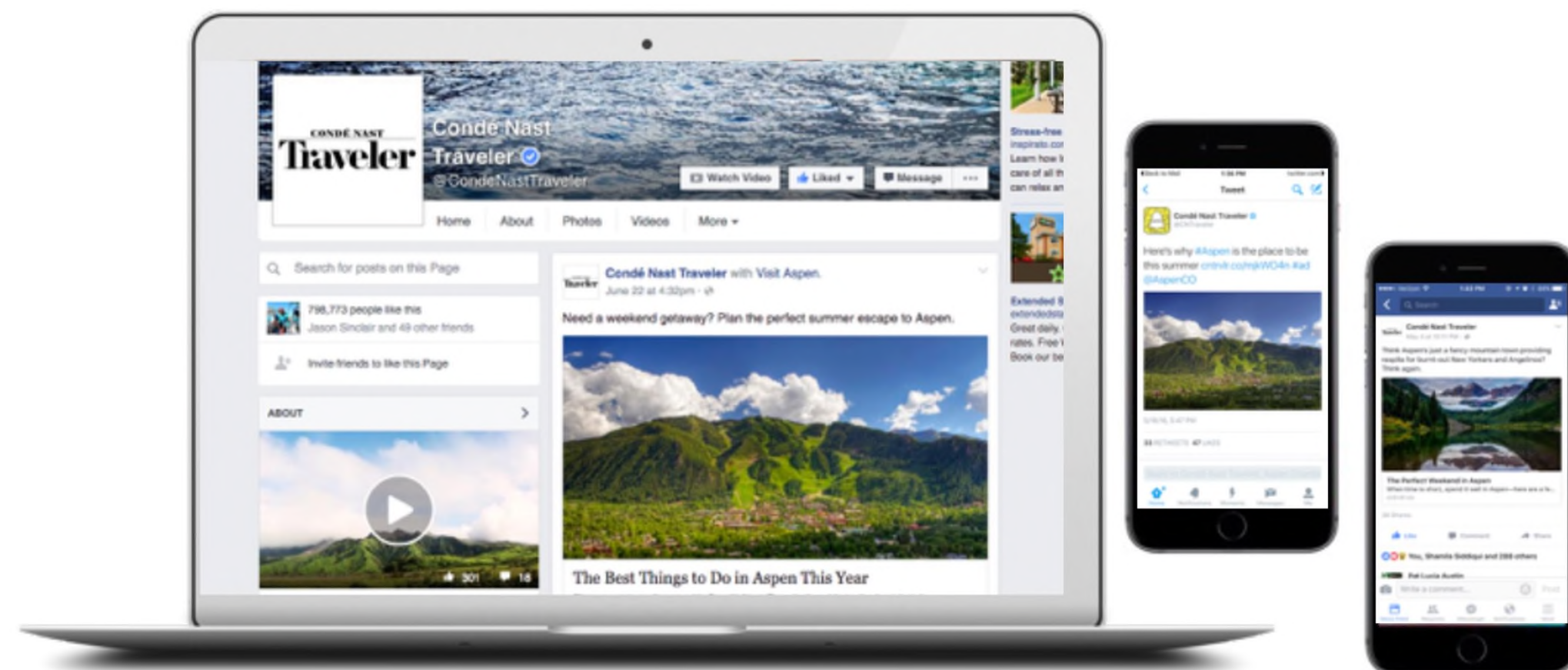
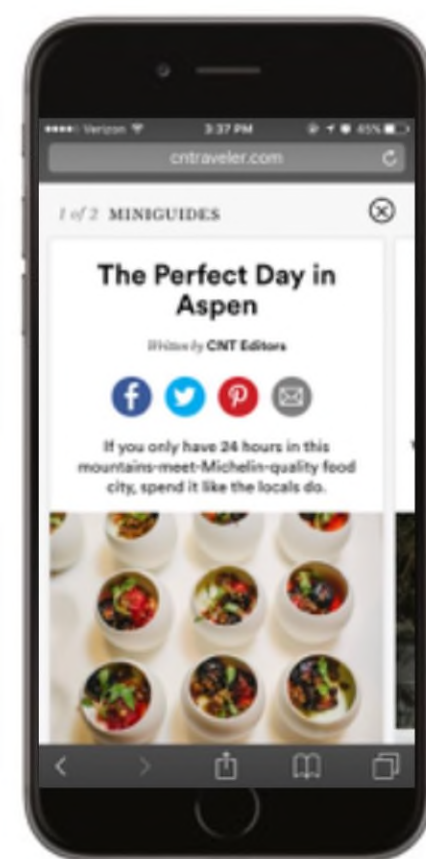
In May 2015, Condé Nast Traveler's editorial team launched a new Aspen Destination Guide, promoting the mountain town's top attractions during the summer months.

Content included: Mini-Guides of the Perfect Day and the Perfect Weekend in Aspen, custom venue cards of the top hotels, restaurants, and attractions around the city, and a Aspen Pinterest page.



Aspen Destination Guide

As a sponsor of the editorial Destination Guide, Aspen Chamber Resort Association received 100% SOV within the content, logo placement, and sponsored social promotion.



Social Promotion

Robust editorial and sponsored promotion of the Aspen Destination Guide across Condé Nast Traveler's social channels: Facebook & Twitter.

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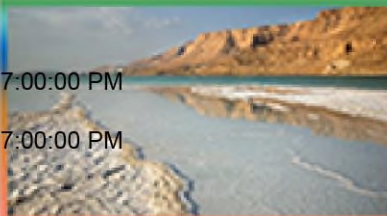




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YOUR NEXT LIFE-CHANGING
MOMENT AWAITS YOU IN
THE LAND OF THE BIBLE



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Film Courtesy of IsraelCollective.org

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Can Christians Still Influence American Culture?

When the voting booth isn't an option

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THE MAGAZINE

The Surprising Importance of Lapsley

Her strong, soulful voice and experimental production mix with captivating results, but her music matters for a much bigger reason.

THE DROP

God's Highway

Stream the new album from Sandra McCracken

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Episode 507: Nate Bargatze

THE LATEST

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CULTURE / SLICES

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Listen to Kirk Franklin and Pharrell Discuss Worship, Faith, Church and the Holy Spirit

Gospel music star Kirk Franklin recently sat down with music superstar Pharrell Williams and radio DJ Scott Vener on the Beats 1 radio show OTHERtone to discuss religious beliefs, and the discussion went in an interesting direction.



Pharrell talked about why he thinks so many people have an aversion to religion in the first place. Essentially saying that he believes that some people don't have capacity for religious belief:

I don't think the church gives enough credence to, like, science ... There are departments in your brain for everything that you think. All of your thoughts come from your brain, that tissue, that muscle ... and there's a part where it falls under

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Never-Ending Cycle of Comparison



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10,000 Syrian Refugees Isn't Nearly Enough



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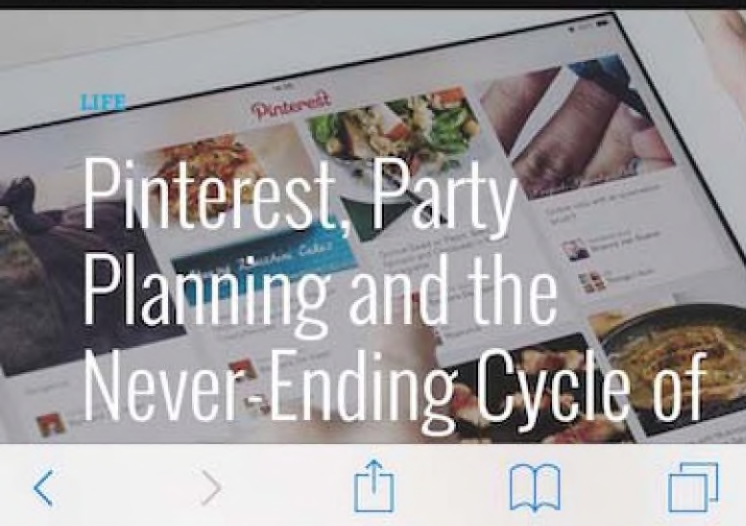
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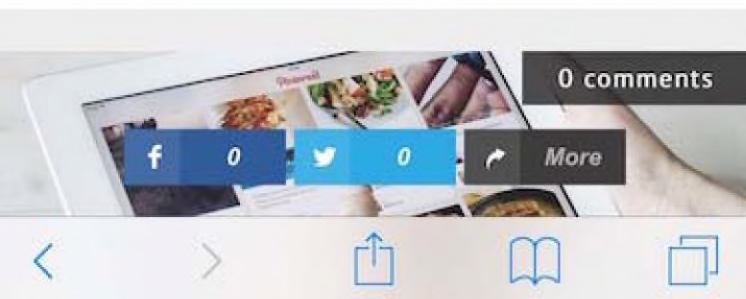
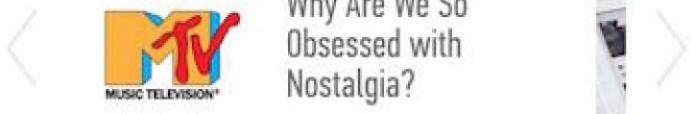


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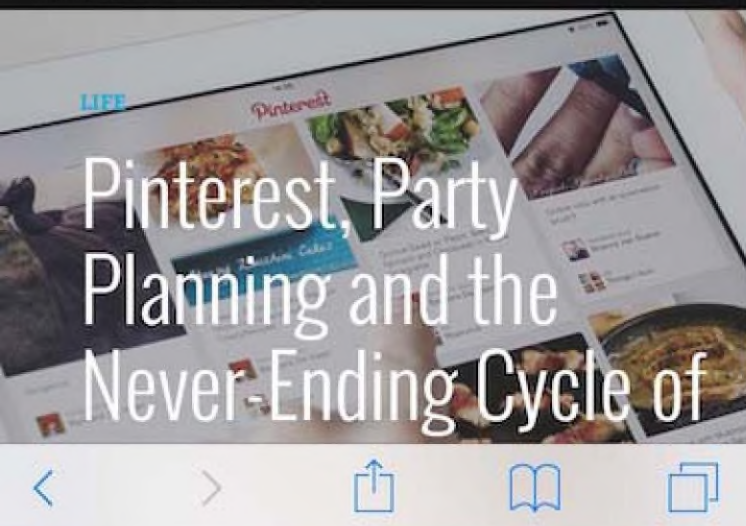


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LIFE

How Focusing on My Family Turned It Into an Idol

We may be keeping our families from experiencing God.

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THE MAGAZINE

What Would Jesus Brew? 8

A new generation of Christians rethought what the Bible actually says about alcohol. But is 'right or wrong' really the only question?

THE DROP

Just This EP

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THE LATEST

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SLICES / AUG 29, 2016

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Gene Wilder Died Today

Oscar-nominated actor and comedian Gene Wilder died today at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. According to a family member, he died of "complications from Alzheimer's disease." He was 83.



Wilder, of course, was a comedic genius who most famously—at least for Millennial-types—embodied the original, darkly eerie version of Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. He was also famous for his role in Mel Brooks's pioneering and biting comedy, *Blazing Saddles*. You probably remember him from *The Producers*, too.

His two Oscar nods were for his role in *The Producers* and for co-writing *Young Frankenstein*.

Writing for Variety, Richard Natale summarizes Wilder's acting this way:

[Wilder] usually portrayed a neurotic who veered between total hysteria and

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LIFE 1
Why Are We So Obsessed with Nostalgia?



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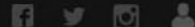
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The Rise of Andra Day

You know her Grammy-nominated song 'Rise Up.' But do you know what she had to rise from?

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How One Church Is Reaching the Most Secular Society on Earth

The story of Holy Trinity Brompton

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The Pope Met with Mark Zuckerberg to Learn How to Bring 'a Message of Hope' to those in Need

Two of the most influential people in the world met today at the Vatican. According to a Vatican spokesperson, Pope Francis met with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan to discuss "how to use communications technology to alleviate poverty, encourage a culture of encounter, and to communicate a message of hope, especially to the most disadvantaged."



Zuckerberg also presented the pope with his own drone, like the one the company is using to bring the internet to remote communities around the world. In a Facebook post, Zuckerberg explained,

Priscilla and I had the honor of meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican. We told him how much we admire his message of mercy and tenderness, and how he's found new ways to communicate with people of every faith around the world.

We also discussed the importance of connecting people, especially in parts of the world without internet access. We gave him a model of Aquila, our solar-powered aircraft that will beam internet connectivity to places that don't have it. And we shared our work with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to help people around the world.

It was a meeting we'll never forget. You can feel his warmth and kindness, and how deeply he cares about helping people.

SLICES / AUG 29, 2016

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ISIS Claims Suicide Attack in Yemen That Killed At Least 54

A suicide bomber drove a car bomb into a military compound in Aden, Yemen, killing at least 54 people.



4

GOD
'Fear Not' Is a Commandment We Need to Take Seriously

17

5

GOD
You Should Invite Someone to Move in With Your Family

17

RECOMMENDED

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5 Really Bad Reasons To Leave Your Church

191,039

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LIFE

What I Wish I Knew About My Body in My Twenties

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CULTURE

Design Should Matter More to Christians

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Troubles (Official Music Video)

Troubles shape our lives but should not define who we are. Written In Kings' video for their latest track 'Troubles' is an enigmatic display of ...

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ISIS Claims Suicide Attack in Yemen That Killed At Least 54

A suicide bomber drove a car bomb into a military compound in Aden, Yemen, killing at least 54 people.



4

'Fear Not' Is a Commandment We Need to Take Seriously

17

5

You Should Invite Someone to Move in With Your Family

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16,488



Troubles (Official Music Video)


Troubles shape our lives but should not define who we are. Written In Kings' video for their latest track 'Troubles' is an enigmatic display of ...

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"If you haven't toured in Israel, I beckon you to come, It will change your life..."
- Michael W. Smith -

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Land of Creation

RELEVANT THIS WEEK

Get the best RELEVANT content each week, straight to your inbox!

The Pope Met with Mark Zuckerberg to Learn How to Bring 'a Message of Hope' to those in Need

Two of the most influential people in the world met today at the Vatican. According to a Vatican spokesperson, Pope Francis met with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan to discuss "how to use communications technology to alleviate poverty, encourage a culture of encounter, and to communicate a message of hope, especially to the most disadvantaged."



Zuckerberg also presented the pope with his own drone, like the one the company is using to bring the internet to remote communities around the world. In a Facebook post, Zuckerberg explained,

Priscilla and I had the honor of meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican. We told him how much we admire his message of mercy and tenderness, and how he's found new ways to communicate with people of every faith around the world.

We also discussed the importance of connecting people, especially in parts of the world without internet access. We gave him a model of Aquila, our solar-powered aircraft that will beam internet connectivity to places that don't have it. And we shared our work with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to help people around the world.

It was a meeting we'll never forget. You can feel his warmth and kindness, and how deeply he cares about helping people.

SLICES / AUG 29, 2016

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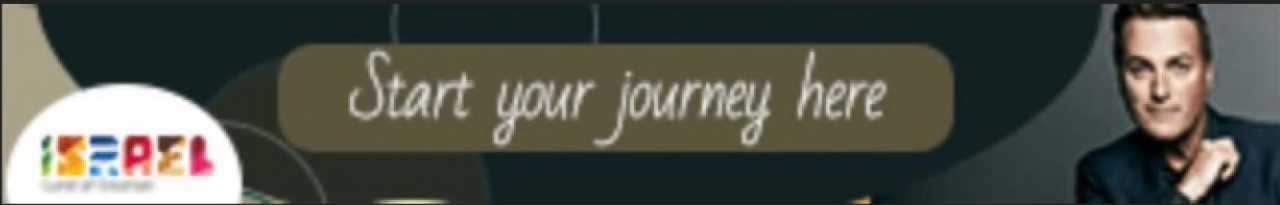


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How Focusing on My Family Turned It Into an Idol

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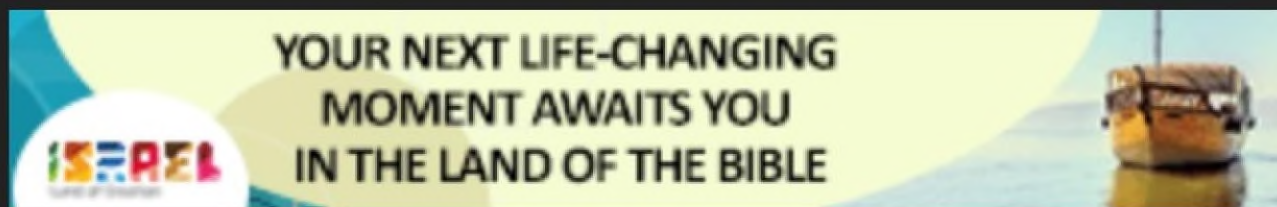


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DON'T KNOW



3 Words to Describe Israel



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How Focusing on My Family Turned It Into an Idol

We may be keeping our families from experiencing God.

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The Surprising Importance of Lapsley

Her strong, soulful voice and experimental production mix with captivating results, but her music matters for a much bigger reason.

THE DROP

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Stream the new EP from Birdtalker

RELEVANT PODCAST

Episode 507: Nate Bargatze

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SLICES / AUG 29, 2016

SHARE 2

Gene Wilder Died Today

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Wilder, of course, was a comedic genius who most famously—at least for Millennial-types—embodied the original, darkly eerie version of Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. He was also famous for his role in Mel Brooks's pioneering and biting comedy, *Blazing Saddles*. You probably remember him from *The Producers*, too.

TODAY'S FEATURES



LIFE

Why Are We So Obsessed with Nostalgia?



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The Case for Buying Expensive Things

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"If you haven't toured in Israel, I beckon you to come, It will change your life..."

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- Michael W. Smith in Israel -

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Your next life-changing moment awaits you in the **Land of the Bible.** Start your journey now!

Organize a tour of Israel for your church members. Guide them through a once-in-a-lifetime journey **where it all began.**

UNDISCOVERED ISRAEL

Stunning beaches.
Street art to wow
you. Boutique
brewers. We reveal
the side of Israel
you didn't know.

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TimeOut



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FUN FACT!

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COFFEE

Israel's coffee culture is booming with local roasteries popping up alongside sidewalk cafés on what seems like every corner. Unique to Tel Aviv, it's a culture of catching up with friends for hours over lattes—and the people behind the beans and the machines are doing it better than ever.

Purple Square Coffee

Behind the Noga Theatre in the hip and bohemian Jaffa, you will find Purple Square Coffee, an intimate roaster that offers single origins, its own specialty blends and cold brews that wow coffee lovers far and wide.
→ Sgula St 15 (+972-3-546-9890, purplesquarecoffee.com)



Cafelix



Café Nahat

Café Nahat

At the center of it all in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Square is Café Nahat. This micro-roastery is a superb spot for unwinding with your laptop or exchanging ideas while sampling coffee from all over the world—the staff is knowledgeable, making this a great place to learn more about what's in your cup.

→ Reines St 1

FUN FACT!

Cherry tomatoes were originally engineered in Israel in 1973.

Cafelix

Each Cafelix location offers its own homey feel with signature blends and each has a neighborhood cup scheme: locals can have their own personal cup on the shelf and drink from it during every visit, just like at home.

→ Multiple locations (cafelix.de)

Mae Café

Visit Ramat Gan and stop at Mae Café to observe the careful roasting process and taste coffee straight from Costa Rica. At the two Tel Aviv locations, you can sample the same beans in a warm café atmosphere.

→ Multiple locations (+972-3-510-2266, maecafe.com)

BEER & WINE

Beer Bazaar

The Beer Bazaar in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market (Ramban St 1; beerbazaar.co.il) is the place to try more than 100 Israeli craft beers and feast on local inexpensive fare. The Jerusalem location in Mahane Yehuda Market (Ets Khayim St 3) is kosher; try the creamy Nitro-Coffee, made up of cold-brew coffee served from the tap, a super-creamy way to have your brew.



Lotem Winery

FUN FACT!

With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and start-ups, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world (apart from the Silicon Valley).

Israel's beer and wine game gets better with age. Where once a handful of brewers dominated the local market, locals are now leaving former professions to delve deep into crafting beers; microbreweries are sprouting all over the country, and popular local beer festivals are emerging. As for wine, the country's been producing vino since biblical times, and there are more than 300 open-armed vintners waiting for you.



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Binyamina's Tishbi Winery has been producing wine for more than 30 years. Hit the visitor center for a one-stop experience: Take in views of the vineyards that reach from the foothills of the Carmel Mountains almost to the Mediterranean coast, and enjoy a wine-and-chocolate pairing.
→ Binyamina-Giv'at Ada (+972-4-628-8195, tishbi.com)





FESTIVALS

Israel is attracting some of the best festivals in the world and giving birth to some amazingly original hometown events. From art fairs to live music and craft fairs on the boardwalk, there's always a reason to be out until the wee hours.

The Israel Festival

The Israel Festival kicks off at the end of spring, starting in the Jerusalem Theatre and spreading to spots around the city where Israeli and international artists perform theater, contemporary dance and more.

→ israel-festival.org



The Israel Festival

Tel Aviv Pride

One of the most significant festivals on Israel's calendar is June's Tel Aviv LGBTQ Pride, during which 200,000 people come together for a weeklong fiesta of parties, events and food tours. A big highlight is the Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival, with screenings, panels and parties.

→ gaytelaviv.atraf.com

Fresh Paint, Contemporary Art & Design Fair

This highly influential fair is held every year across Tel Aviv. The focus is on artists, galleries and influencers, attracting more than 30,000 people globally annually.

→ freshpaint.co.il

Open House

Nothing defines the locals more than their welcoming attitude, and this is especially visible during Open House. Get a peek inside private homes, designer lofts and intricately designed synagogues. Whether it be in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, this is the best way to really get to know the places from within.

→ Tel Aviv: batim-il.org/tourseng.aspx. Jerusalem: batim.itraveljerusalem.com/defaulteng.aspx.



ART

ON THE WALLS

Israel has more museums per capita than any country in the world—but there is more to the gallery scene than simply great pieces on walls. Young, up-and-coming artists show their work with the classics, student exhibitions are showcased for all and budding artists have dedicated followings on Instagram. It's an invigorating time to be an art lover in Israel.



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Be sure to stop in to see the Tel Aviv Museum of Art's newest wing, the Herta and Paul Amir building, a five-story complex with interior rectangular halls connected by bridges creating a unique flow of movement and light—it's an exhibition in itself.

→ Sderot Sha'ul HaMelech 27 (+972-3-607-7020, www.tamuseum.org.il)



Israel Museum

Israel Museum

Since opening in 1965, the Israel Museum has become the country's largest cultural institution. The downtown Jerusalem behemoth showcases fine arts, Jewish art and features the most extensive collection of biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world.

→ Derech Ruppin (+972-2-670-8811, www.imj.org.il)



Israel Museum

Sommer Contemporary Art

Located on Tel Aviv's trendy Rothschild Boulevard, Sommer Contemporary Art is known for spotlighting contemporary Israeli art internationally while also drawing local eyes to international work. It shares strong ties with artists, and the gallery's project room, known as S2, allows young curators to present small-scale exhibitions.

→ Rothschild Blvd 13 (+972-3-516-6400, www.sommergallery.com)

Contemporary by Golconda

This unique gallery in South Tel Aviv is set in a former tahini factory. The space supports budding local artists by giving them a stage to the Israeli and international public.

→ Herzl St 117 (+972-2-682-2777, www.contemporary.co.il)

ON THE STREETS

While the locals do wear their hearts on their sleeves, they also showcase their emotions on dilapidated buildings and every available alleyway. Street art is alive and kicking, vibrantly woven into the city landscapes, with each colorful spread offering a peek into the dreams, expressions and cultural complexity of the country. Here are three neighborhoods to check out.



Florentin street art by Broken Fingaz

Florentin

South Tel Aviv's Florentin district is a gritty, boho destination where cafés, bars and restaurants mix with the diverse street art popping up in alleys, soon-to-be renovated buildings and intimate art galleries. See it all in organized street-art tours.

Downtown Jerusalem

Among the artisanal craft markets and cafés in Downtown Jerusalem, vibrantly colored and detailed walls tell the stories of the residents. You can find great city-funded and underground works on construction site barriers and hidden along off-the-beaten-track streets.

FUN FACT!

There's free Wi-Fi all over Tel Aviv. Instagram street art without worrying about data.



Downtown Jerusalem street art by Itamar Faluja



Downtown Jerusalem street art by Yuval Yosef

Neve Tzedek

A short walk from the beach in Tel Aviv takes you to the stroll-worthy Neve Tzedek neighborhood, a whimsical maze of winding streets, packed with upscale restaurants, arty shops and street art scrawled on worn-out walls and cornered alleys.

7 TIPS TO ENJOY ISRAEL LIKE A LOCAL

Eat an Israeli breakfast

Start your Tel Aviv day at Manta Ray, a stone's throw from the sea. Locals visit for the stellar house-made meze—mosaics of Israeli salads plus fresh seafood. → Kolfman St 7 (+972-3-517-4773, mantaray.co.il)

Find the best hummus

This no-frills Tel Aviv Abu Hassan wins our vote for the best hummus in town—super-creamy and authentic as it gets. By 3pm, everything is gone—all gone. → Ha-Dolfin St 1

Sit in a fabulous café

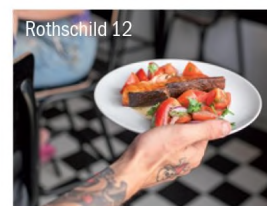
Lounging in cafés is part of the Tel Aviv scene, and Rothschild 12 masters the combination of cozy and hip. Ideal for observing the colorful characters of Tel Aviv. → Rothschild Blvd 12 (+972-3-510-6430)

Party...hard

South Tel Aviv hot spot Kuli Alma is so much more than a night club. A hub for music, food, art and culture, this all-encompassing experience features DJs pumping out electric beats, house, hip-hop and live musical acts.



Jaffa's Flea Market



Rothschild 12



Kuli Alma

FUN FACT!

Israel publishes more books per capita than any other nation in the world. Stuck up on literature while visiting.

→ Mikveh Israel St 10 (+972-3-656-5155, kuliama.com)

Play matkot

This trendy paddleball game has been the country's quintessential beach pastime since the 1920s. Give it a shot at beautiful Gordon Beach in Tel Aviv.

Drink Arak

Sip this popular anise-flavored drink at the bar at

Pimpinella (Matalon St 40; 972-77-234-8662), known for its extensive list of arak and its fish-focused menu. Or get simple local cuisine—fresh okra!—with your arak at Haifa's Cula (Ha-namal 33; +972-4-602-2337).

Haggle in a flea market

Free-spirited and trendy, Jaffa's Flea Market is the spot to score vintage kitchenware, Middle Eastern souvenirs, kilim rugs and more. Want a bargain? Gracefully walk away and within seconds, you'll probably be offered a price of some 10 to 15 shekels less. Try it, and thank us later.

WANT TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE ISRAEL YOU DIDN'T KNOW? CHECK OUT ISRAEL.TRAVEL.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV



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Try jachnun

This beloved Yemenite pastry—made from dough that's rolled out thinly, slathered in shortening, then rolled back up and slow cooked overnight—is traditionally eaten on shabbat morning, but has



Rothschild 12

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Hummus

made the move into the all-day-eating mainstream. You can find it all over the country but if in Tel Aviv, head to the Jachnun Bar (Hillel St 28) in the Yemenite Quarter. You'll get two jachnun, a hard-boiled egg plus a grated tomato dip and skhug (a local hot sauce).

Eat shakshuka—or make it yourself.

Shakshuka, the popular dish of eggs poached in cooked tomatoes, is one of the most popular ways that Israelis start their day. For an expert take, try it at the Mendeli

Street Hotel (Mendeli St 5, +972-3-639-0795), but why not make it yourself? For the ingredients, stop at the Carmel Market (HaCarmel St) to inhale the hustle and the bustle of Tel Aviv, with rows of ruby-red tomatoes, piping-hot breads and locally grown gems, or head over to Sarona Market (Rehov Kalman Megan 3), an air-conditioned food paradise boasting pristine produce, hard-to-come-by ingredients and eateries of all kinds.

PHOTOGRAPHS (FROM TOP): COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV; C2/FUCKR

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PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV

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FESTIVALS



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UNDISCOVERED ISRAEL

**Stunning beaches.
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Israel's beer and wine game gets better with age. Where once a handful of brewers dominated the local market, locals are now leaving former professions to delve deep into crafting beers; microbreweries are sprouting all over the country, and popular local beer festivals are emerging. As for wine, the country's been producing vino since biblical times, and there are more than 300 open-armed vintners waiting for you.



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7 TIPS TO ENJOY ISRAEL LIKE A LOCAL

Eat an Israeli breakfast

Start your Tel Aviv day at Manta Ray, a stone's throw from the sea. Locals visit for the stellar house-made meze—mosaics of Israeli salads plus fresh seafood. → Kolfman St 7 (+972-3-517-4773, mantaray.co.il)

Find the best hummus

This no-frills Tel Aviv Abu Hassan wins our vote for the best hummus in town—super-creamy and authentic as it gets. By 3pm, everything is gone—all gone. → Ha-Dolfin St 1

Sit in a fabulous café

Lounging in cafés is part of the Tel Aviv scene, and Rothschild 12 masters the combination of cozy and hip. Ideal for observing the colorful characters of Tel Aviv. → Rothschild Blvd 12 (+972-3-510-6430)

Party...hard

South Tel Aviv hot spot Kuli Alma is so much more than a night club. A hub for music, food, art and culture, this all-encompassing experience features DJs pumping out electric beats, house, hip-hop and live musical acts. → Mikveh Israel St 10 (+972-3-656-5155, kuliama.com)



Jaffa's Flea Market



Rothschild 12



Kuli Alma

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972-77-234-8662), known for its extensive list of arak and its fish-focused menu. Or get simple local cuisine—fresh okra!—with your arak at Haifa's Cula (Ha-namal 33; +972-4-602-2337).

Play matkot

This trendy paddleball game has been the country's quintessential beach pastime since the 1920s. Give it a shot at beautiful Gordon Beach in Tel Aviv.

Drink Arak

Sip this popular anise-flavored drink at the bar at Pimpinella (Matalon St 40;

Haggle in a flea market

Free-spirited and trendy, Jaffa's Flea Market is the spot to score vintage kitchenware, Middle Eastern souvenirs, kilim rugs and more. Want a bargain? Gracefully walk away and within seconds, you'll probably be offered a price of some 10 to 15 shekels less. Try it, and thank us later.

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PHOTOGRAPH: RIGHT: NOM CHEN; COVER (FROM TOP): @MILESGRAY88, SHUTTERSTOCK



Eat Shakshuka
(or make it yourself):
page 6

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made the move into the all-day-eating mainstream. You can find it all over the country but if in Tel Aviv, head to the Jachnun Bar in the Yemenite Quarter. You'll get two jachnun, a hard-boiled egg plus a grated tomato dip and skhug (a local hot sauce).
→ Hille St 28

Eat shakshuka— or make it yourself

Shakshuka, the popular dish of eggs poached in cooked tomatoes, is one of the most popular ways that Israelis start their day. For an expert take, try it at the Mendeli

Street Hotel (Mendeli St 5, +972-3-639-0795), but why not make it yourself? For the ingredients, stop at the Carmel Market (HaCarmel St) to inhale the hustle and the bustle of Tel Aviv, with rows of ruby-red tomatoes, piping-hot breads and locally grown gems, or head over to Sarona Market (Rehov Kalman Megan 3), an air-conditioned food paradise boasting pristine produce, hard-to-come-by ingredients and eateries of all kinds.

PHOTOGRAPHS (FROM TOP): COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV; CC/FUCKR

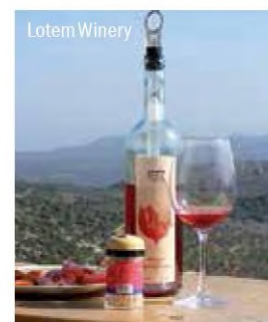
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→ Herzl St 117 (+972-3-682-2777, www.contemporary.co.il)

ON THE STREETS

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Downtown Jerusalem

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Downtown Jerusalem street art by Itamar Faluja



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Neve Tzedek

A short walk from the beach in Tel Aviv takes you to the stroll-worthy Neve Tzedek neighborhood, a whimsical maze of winding streets, packed with upscale restaurants, arty shops and street art scrawled on worn-out walls and cornered alleys.

FUN FACT!

There's free Wi-Fi all over Tel Aviv. Instagram street art without worrying about data.

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UNDISCOVERED ISRAEL

Stunning beaches.
Food to wow and
inspire you. Boutique
brewers. We reveal
the side of Israel you
didn't know.



DISCOVER ISRAEL

New Yorkers may know that Israel has the Western Wall, the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. But what about the Israel you've never seen?

The country's nonstop nightlife, booming restaurant scene inspired by a diversity of cultures, top wineries and underground art scene are just a sampling of Israel's progressive, no-holds-barred offering. Known as the Start-up Nation, where ideas run wild, Israel is alive with entrepreneurs, balancing a lifestyle of partying and achievement. Go to Tel Aviv's Gordon Street for gallery hopping, or head to the hidden charms of Jerusalem's Bezalel Street—home of the prestigious Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design—to experience how local artists hone their crafts. Or maybe jumping straight into one of the massive outdoor festivals is more your speed. Here we take the road less traveled through a dynamic side of Israel you didn't even know existed.

PHOTOGRAPH: RIGHT: NOM CHEN; COVER (FROM TOP): @MILESGRAYES, SHUTTERSTOCK



Eat Shakshuka
(or make it yourself):
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BEACHES



Aquaduct Beach Caesarea

Unparalleled beaches and warm weather means that beach going is a year-round pastime. Israel offers a highly varied choice: the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, all of which are fit with beach cafés and their own distinct vibes. Relax with a limonana (a minty, slushy lemonade), or take some time to work out by the sea—both are the way of life here. Play beach volleyball, lift weights at a free boardwalk gym, indulge in the Israeli-invented racket sport of matkot, or dance to blaring beats at beachside night parties.

Gordon Beach

Gordon Beach, off Gordon Street, is adjacent to Tel Aviv's best hotels, and it's a great place for a quick volleyball match or for sunbathing with people from around the world.

Achziv Beach

Achziv Beach is 15 minutes north of Acre, near the Lebanon border. Here you will discover two lagoons and a gorgeously romantic beach, plus sea anemones, octopuses and sea turtles.

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV



Gordon Beach



Apollonia Beach

Twenty-five minutes north of Tel Aviv lies Apollonia Beach (close to Herzliya Pituah), which offers a cliff for a bird's-eye view of this breathtaking and narrow stretch of coast, where castle ruins overlook the water.

Aquaduct Beach Caesarea

Around 45 minutes from Tel Aviv, Aqueduct Beach Caesarea boasts a gorgeous coastline, stunning arches of the 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct and nearby ruins. It's a remarkable blend of history and leisure.

Beit Yanai Beach

Beit Yanai Beach, north of Netanya, boasts an immaculate coastline decorated with kites. It's a local's paradise for water sports like kite surfing, surfing and waterskiing. Soft-shelled turtles are also a common sight here.

FUN FACT!

The shores of the Dead Sea are the lowest pieces of land on Earth, some 1,407 feet below sea level.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Find the best hummus

This no-frills Tel Aviv Abu Hassan wins our vote for the best hummus in town—super-creamy and authentic as it gets. By 3pm, everything is gone—all gone.

→ Ha-Dolfin St 1

Eat an Israeli breakfast

Start your Tel Aviv day at Manta Ray, a stone's throw from the sea. Locals visit for the stellar house-made meze—mosaics of Israeli salads plus fresh seafood.

→ Kolfman St 7 (+972-3-517-4773, mantaray.co.il)

Drink Arak

Sip this popular anise-flavored drink at the bar at Pimpinella (Matalon St 40; 972-77-234-8662), known for its extensive list of arak and its fish-focused menu. Or get simple local cuisine—fresh okra!—with your arak at Haifa's Cula (Ha-namal 33; +972-4-602-2337).

Try jachnun

This beloved Yemenite pastry—made from dough that's rolled out thinly, slathered in shortening, then rolled back up and slow cooked overnight—is traditionally eaten on shabbat morning, but has



Rothschild 12

FUN FACT!

Israel publishes more books per capita than any other nation in the world. Stuck up on literature while visiting.



Hummus

made the move into the all-day-eating mainstream. You can find it all over the country but if in Tel Aviv, head to the Jachnun Bar in the Yemenite Quarter. You'll get two jachnun, a hard-boiled egg plus a grated tomato dip and skhug (a local hot sauce).

→ Hille St 28

Eat shakshuka— or make it yourself

Shakshuka, the popular dish of eggs poached in cooked tomatoes, is one of the most popular ways that Israelis start their day. For an expert take, try it at the Mendeli

Street Hotel (Mendeli St 5, +972-3-639-0795), but why not make it yourself? For the ingredients, stop at the Carmel Market (HaCarmel St) to inhale the hustle and the bustle of Tel Aviv, with rows of ruby-red tomatoes, piping-hot breads and locally grown gems, or head over to Sarona Market (Rehov Kalman Megan 3), an air-conditioned food paradise boasting pristine produce, hard-to-come-by ingredients and eateries of all kinds.

PHOTOGRAPHS (FROM TOP; COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV; CC/FUCKR

BEER & WINE

Beer Bazaar

The Beer Bazaar in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market (Ramban St 1; beerbazaar.co.il) is the place to try more than 100 Israeli craft beers and feast on local inexpensive fare. The Jerusalem location in Mahane Yehuda Market (Ets Khayim St 3) is kosher; try the creamy Nitro-Coffee, made up of cold-brew coffee served from the tap, a super-creamy way to have your brew.



Beer Bazaar



Lotem Winery

FUN FACT!

With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and start-ups, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world (apart from the Silicon Valley).

Alexander Brewery

While employed as an Air Force pilot, Ori Sagy traveled the world learning about beer until he started brewing in small quantities at home. Later he opened Alexander Brewery in Emek Hefer, near the Alexander stream; it's now known all over Israel for its superb product and eco-friendly techniques.

→ Tsvi HaNahal St 19 (+972-74-703-4094, alexander-beer.co.il)

Lotem Winery

Overlooking the Sea of Galilee and Bikat Sakhnin is the largest organic winery in Israel. Take in the view, enjoy a tapas feast and, of course, try one of the 15,000 bottles of red Lotem produces yearly.

→ Kibutz Lotem; lotemwinery.co.il.

Tishbi Winery

Binyamina's Tishbi Winery has been producing wine for more than 30 years. Hit the visitor center for a one-stop experience: Take in views of the vineyards that reach from the foothills of the Carmel Mountains almost to the Mediterranean coast, and enjoy a wine-and-chocolate pairing.

→ Binyamina-Giv'at Ada (+972-4-628-8195, tishbi.com)



COFFEE CULTURE

Israel's coffee culture is booming with local roasteries popping up alongside sidewalk cafés on what seems like every corner. Unique to Tel Aviv, it's a culture of catching up with friends for hours over lattes—and the people behind the beans and the machines are doing it better than ever.

Purple Square Coffee

Behind the Noga Theatre in the hip and bohemian Jaffa, you will find Purple Square Coffee, an intimate roaster that offers single origins, its own specialty blends and cold brews that wow coffee lovers far and wide.

→ Sgula St 15 (+972-3-546-9890, purplesquarecoffee.com)



Café Nahat

At the center of it all in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Square is Café Nahat. This micro-roastery is a superb spot for unwinding with your laptop or exchanging ideas while sampling coffee from all over the world—the staff is knowledgeable, making this a great place to learn more about what's in your cup.

→ Reines St 1

FUN FACT!

Cherry tomatoes were originally engineered in Israel in 1973.

Cafelix

Each Cafelix location offers its own homey feel with signature blends and each has a neighborhood cup scheme: locals can have their own personal cup on the shelf and drink from it during every visit, just like at home.

→ Multiple locations (cafelix.de)

Mae Café

Visit Ramat Gan and stop at Mae Café to observe the careful roasting process and taste coffee straight from Costa Rica. At the two Tel Aviv locations, you can sample the same beans in a warm café atmosphere.

→ Multiple locations (+972-3-510-2266, maecafe.com)



Cafelix

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV

FESTIVALS



Tel Aviv Pride

Israel is attracting some of the best festivals in the world and giving birth to some amazingly original homegrown events. From art fairs to live music and craft fairs on the boardwalk, there's always a reason to be out until the wee hours.

The Israel Festival

The Israel Festival kicks off at the end of spring, starting in the Jerusalem Theatre and spreading to spots around the city where Israeli and international artists perform theater, contemporary dance and more.

→ israel-festival.org



The Israel Festival

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY TIME OUT TEL AVIV

Tel Aviv Pride

One of the most significant festivals on Israel's calendar is June's Tel Aviv LGBTQ Pride, during which 200,000 people come together for a weeklong fiesta of parties, events and food tours. A big highlight is the Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival, with screenings, panels and parties.

→ gaytelaviv.atraf.com

Fresh Paint, Contemporary Art & Design Fair

This highly influential fair is held every year across Tel Aviv. The focus is on artists, galleries and influencers, attracting more than 30,000 people globe annually.

→ freshpaint.co.il

Open House

Nothing defines the locals more than their welcoming attitude, and this is especially visible during Open House. Get a peek inside private homes, designer lofts and intricately designed synagogues. Whether it be in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, this is the best way to really get to know the places from within.

→ Tel Aviv: batim-il.org/tourseng.aspx. Jerusalem: batim.itravelfjerusalem.com/defaulteng.aspx.

ART

ON THE WALLS

Israel has more museums per capita than any country in the world—but there is more to the gallery scene than simply great pieces on walls. Young, up-and-coming artists show their work with the classics, student exhibitions are showcased for all and budding artists have dedicated followings on Instagram. It's an invigorating time to be an art-lover in Israel.

Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Be sure to stop in to see the Tel Aviv Museum of Art's newest wing, the Herta and Paul Amir building, a five-story complex with interior rectangular halls connected by bridges creating a unique flow of movement and light—it's an exhibition in itself.

→ Sderot Sha'ul HaMelech 27 (+972-3-607-7020, www.tamuseum.org.il)



Israel Museum

Sommer Contemporary Art

Located on Tel Aviv's trendy Rothschild Boulevard, Sommer Contemporary Art is known for spotlighting contemporary Israeli art internationally while also drawing local eyes to international work. It shares strong ties with artists, and the gallery's project room, known as S2, allows young curators to present small-scale exhibitions.

→ Rothschild Blvd 13 (+972-3-516-6400, www.sommergallery.com)



Tel Aviv Museum of Art



Israel Museum

Israel Museum

Since opening in 1965, the Israel Museum has become the country's largest cultural institution. The downtown Jerusalem behemoth showcases fine arts, Jewish art and features the most extensive collection of biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world.

→ Derech Ruppin (+972-2-670-8811, www.imj.org.il)

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